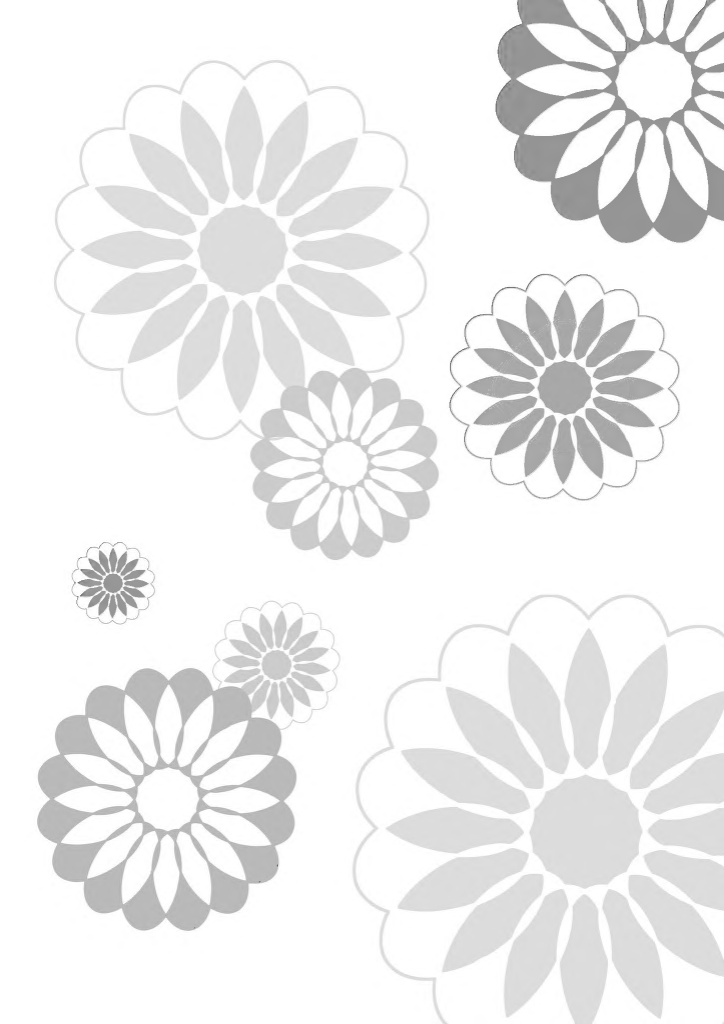
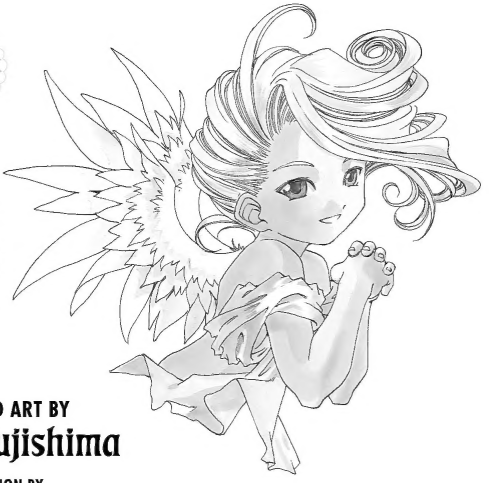
Oh My Goddess!
ああっ女神さまっ
25
藤島康介
KOSUKE FUJISHIMA



Oh My Goddess!

ああっ女神さまっ 25



STORY AND ART BY
Kosuke Fujishima

TRANSLATION BY
Dana Lewis AND Lea Hernandez

LETTERING AND TOUCH-UP BY
Susie Lee AND Betty Dong
WITH Tom2K

DARK HORSE MANGA™

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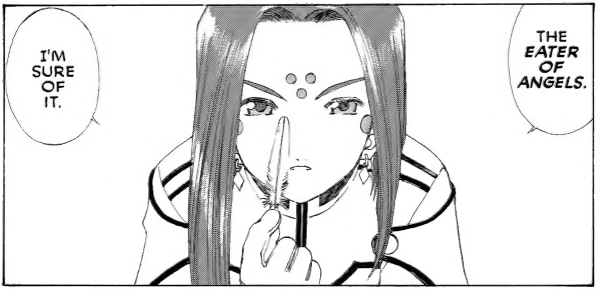
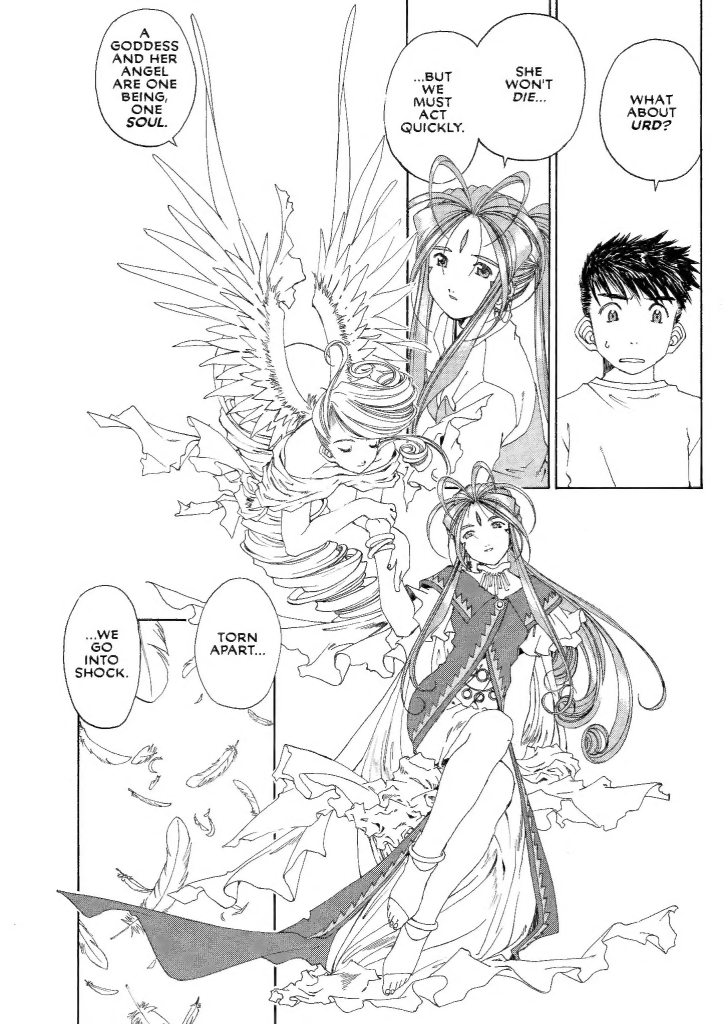
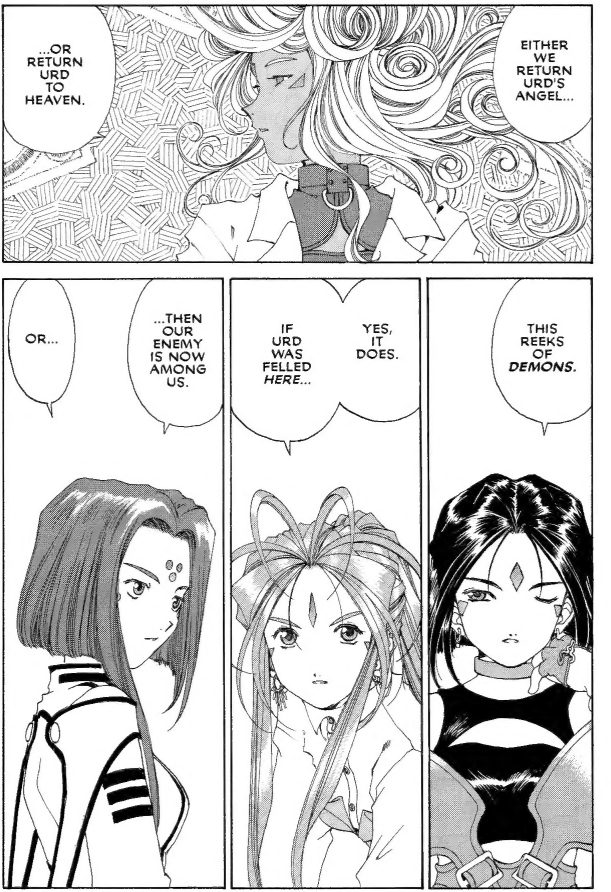
CHAPTER 156

Battle and Joy

HER ANGEL'S BEEN *TAKEN.*
IT'S AS I FEARED.

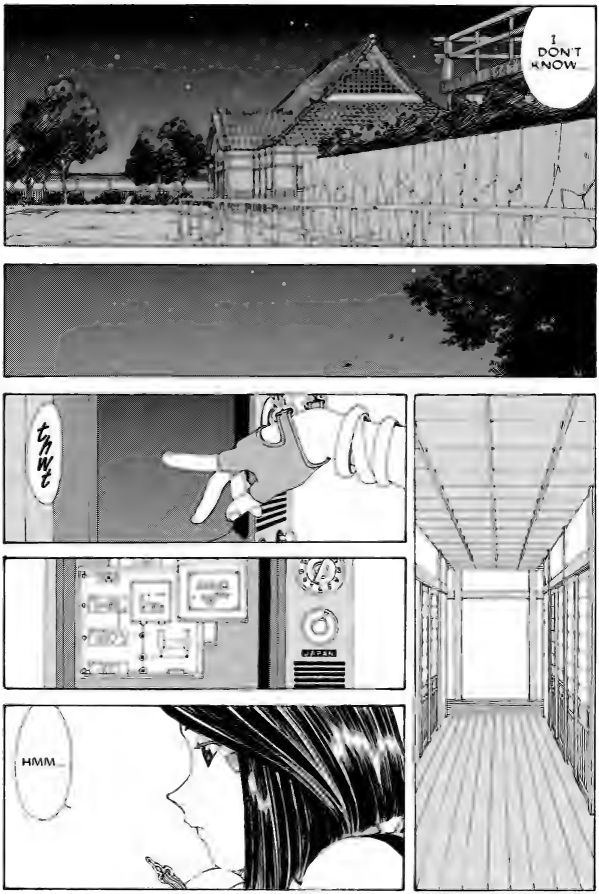

I'M SURE OF IT.
THE EATER OF ANGELS.


A GODDESS AND HER ANGEL ARE ONE BEING, ONE *SOUL*.
...BUT WE MUST ACT QUICKLY.
SHE WON'T *DIE*...
WHAT ABOUT *URD*?
...WE GO INTO SHOCK.
TORN APART...


EITHER WE RETURN URD'S ANGEL...
...OR RETURN URD TO HEAVEN.
THIS REEKS OF *DEMONS*.
YES, IT DOES.
IF URD WAS FELLED *HERE*...
...THEN OUR ENEMY IS NOW AMONG US.
OR...

...THEY'VE BEEN HERE ALL *ALONG*.
TOCK
TOCK
....
....
NO MATTER WHAT...
...WE MUST *TRAP* THE EATER OF ANGELS.
AND HAVE *OUR* ANGELS RESTORE URD'S.
OR URD WILL *NEVER* RECOVER.

IF WE *HAVE* TO.
CAN YOU *DO* THAT?!
...WE MUST NOT SUMMON OURS, *OUI?*
UNTIL THEN...
--THEN WHAT COULD BE *SIMPLER?*
IF THE EATER OF ANGELS ONLY ATTACKS ANGELS--
...THEN WHY'D SHE SUMMON *HERS...?*
IF URD KNEW THAT...

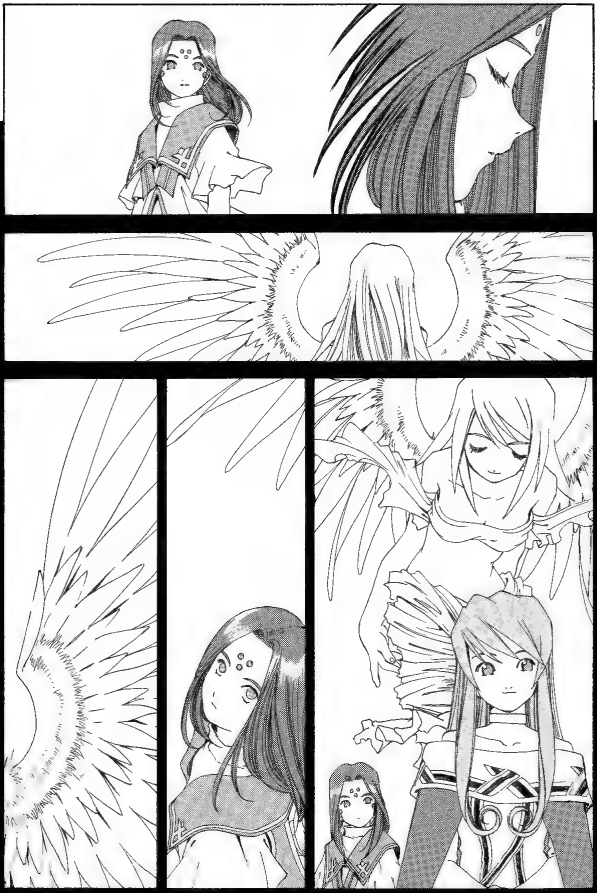

I DON'T KNOW...
tmt
JAPAN
HMM...

WE HARDLY KNOW ANYTHING *ABOUT* IT.
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO EVEN *STUDY*...
"...THEN WHY'D SHE SUMMON *HERS* ...?"
I... DON'T KNOW.
PERHAPS IT'S JUST...
...THAT URD'S A COMPLETE *IDIOT*.
UNSAAA

...COULDN'T HELP SUMMONING IT?
...WHAT IF SHE...
OR...
SHREEEEE
AHH ?!

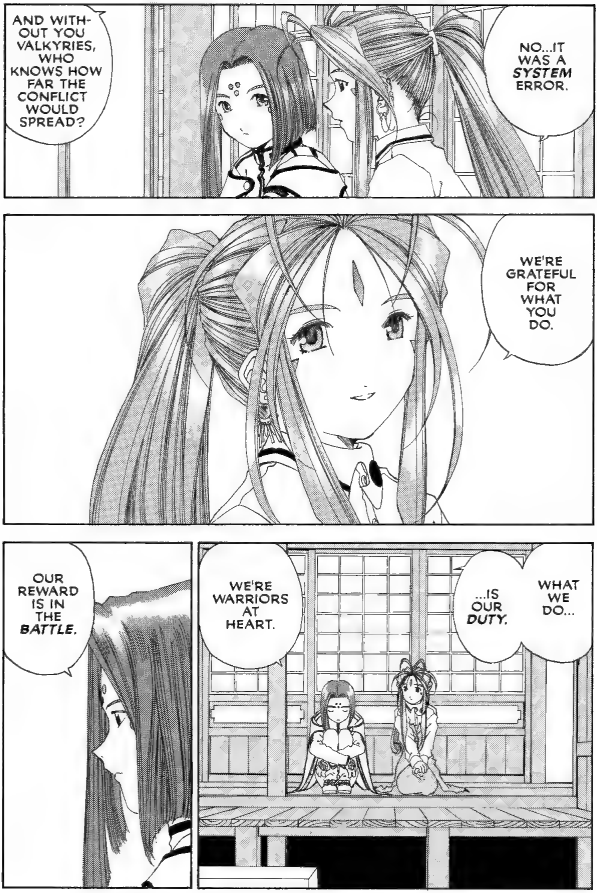
NO! DON'T!
GORGEOUS ROSE !!
IT WASN'T THAT URD DIDN'T KNOW...
THAT'S IT. THAT SOUND...

SHE
JUST
JUST
COUGH



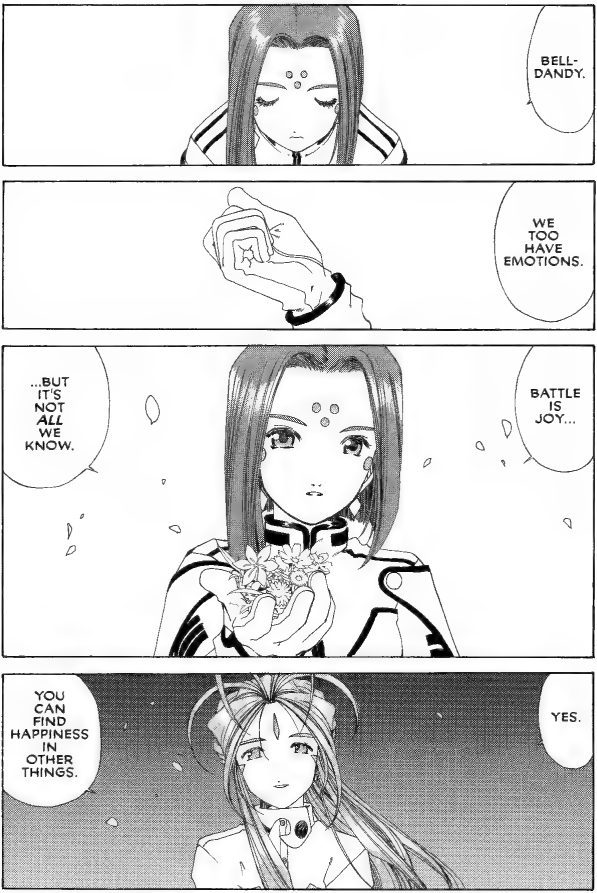
I WANTED YOU TO *MEET*...
--IND?
LIND.
!

ARE YOU WELL?
YOU SEEMED IN PAIN.
NO. I'M FINE.
ASLEEP ON MY *WATCH*...? HOW *COULD* I?!
....
FORGIVE ME.
WHY?
THE *COMBAT SECTION*... THE *VALKYRIES*.
...WE FAILED. WE DIDN'T PROTECT YOU FROM DANGER.

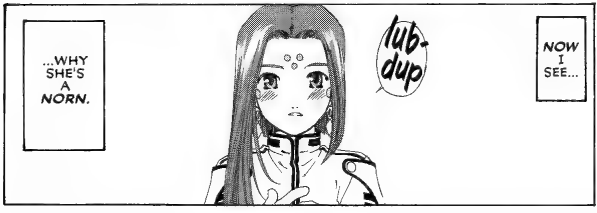

AND WITHOUT YOU VALKYRIES, WHO KNOWS HOW FAR THE CONFLICT WOULD SPREAD?
NO...IT WAS A *SYSTEM* ERROR.
WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR WHAT YOU DO.
OUR REWARD IS IN THE *BATTLE*.
WE'RE WARRIORS AT HEART.
...IS OUR *DUTY*.
WHAT WE DO...

THERE'S NO NEED FOR THANKS.
LIND...
?
FWWSHH
LIND...
...CAN YOU FEEL IT?

THE LIGHT OF LIFE POURING DOWN?
CAN YOU SEE IT?
THE TRACK OF THE WIND BEARING LIFE?
CAN YOU HEAR IT?
OVER-FLOWING?
THE LIFE OF THIS WORLD


BELL-DANDY.
WE TOO HAVE EMOTIONS.
BATTLE IS JOY...
...BUT IT'S NOT ALL WE KNOW.
YES.
YOU CAN FIND HAPPINESS IN OTHER THINGS.

...WHEN SOMEONE APPRECIATES YOU.
FOR EXAMPLE...


...WHY SHE'S A NORN.
lub-dub
NOW I SEE...

PEORTH !!
HOW?! SHE WAS SO CARE-FUL!
HOW DID IT GET HER?!

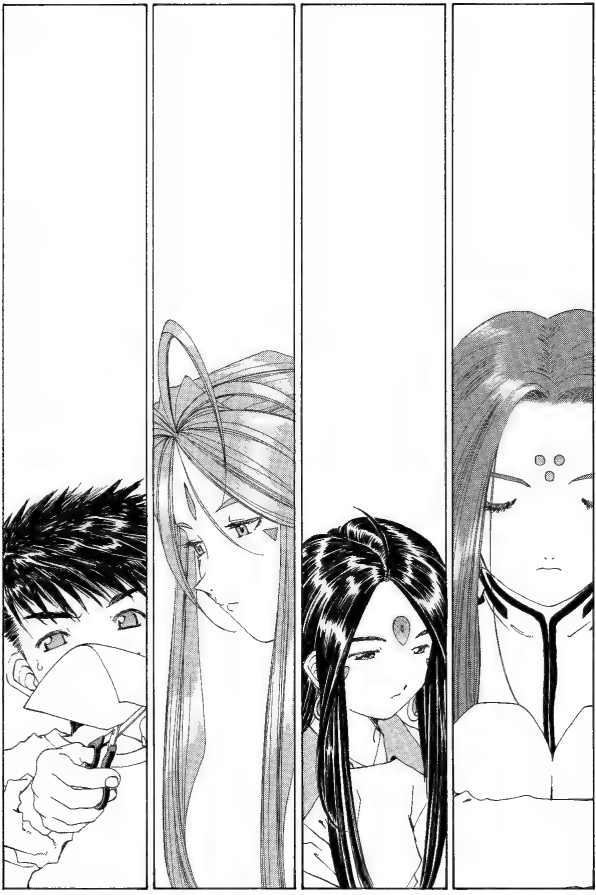
...WE MUST CATCH THE EATER SOON.
INDEED... WITHOUT IT IN HAND...
...WE CAN'T MAKE RESTORATION.
AS OF NOW, NO ONE GOES ALONE.
IF ONE IS ATTACKED, THE OTHER CAPTURES IT.
WHAT IF IT ATTACKS BOTH?
UNLIKELY.
IF IT COULD, THE EATER WOULD HAVE ALREADY.
IT WOULD HAVE GORGED UPON US.

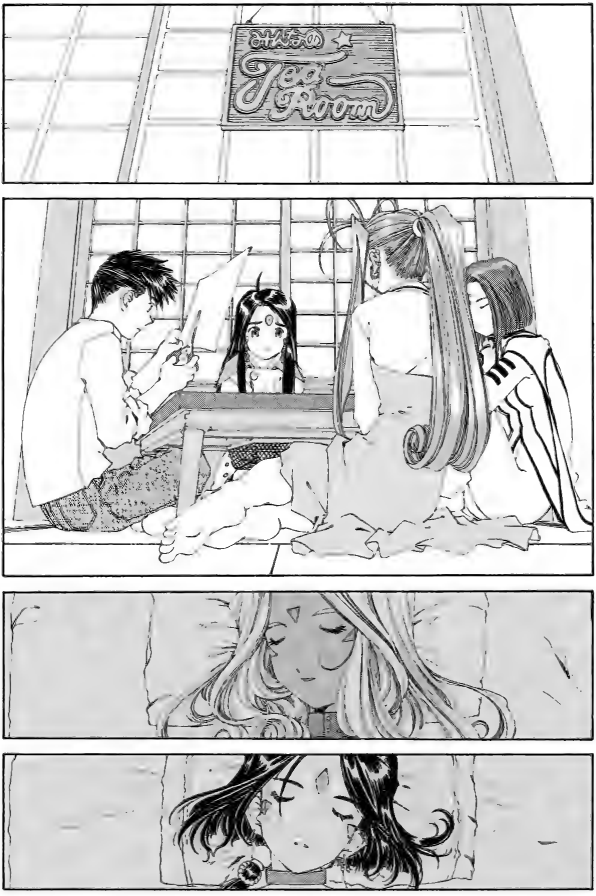
...
...
...BUT REMAIN VIGILANT.
I DON'T THINK YOU TWO NEED WORRY...
I'M NO GOOD. NOT EVEN AS A DECOY...
I CAN'T SUMMON MY ANGEL.

YUM-YUM... I'M GOING TO EAT YOU ALL UP!
N

CHAPTER 157

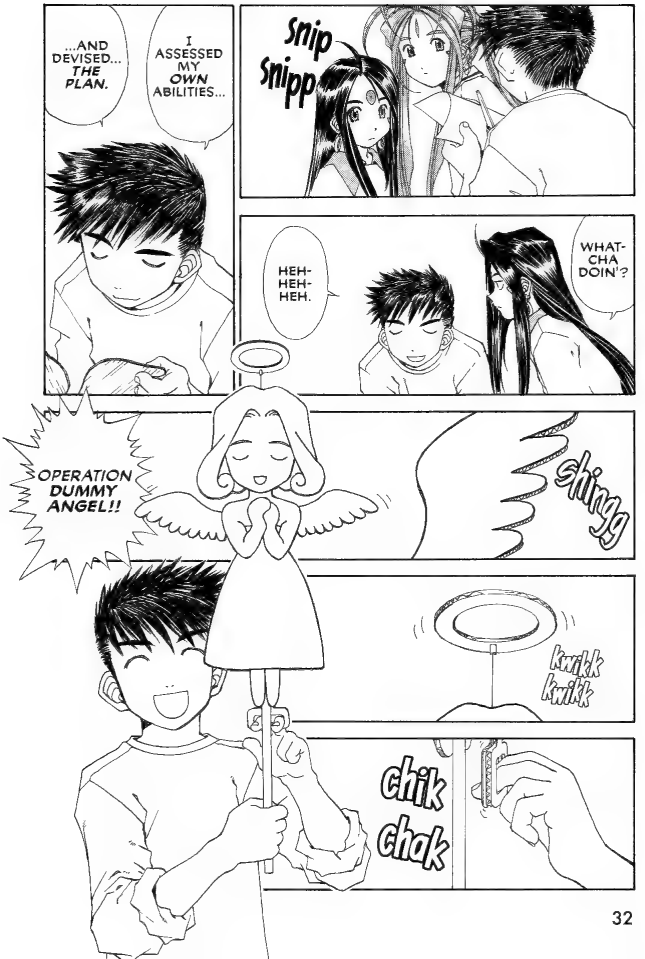
A Dance of Feathers

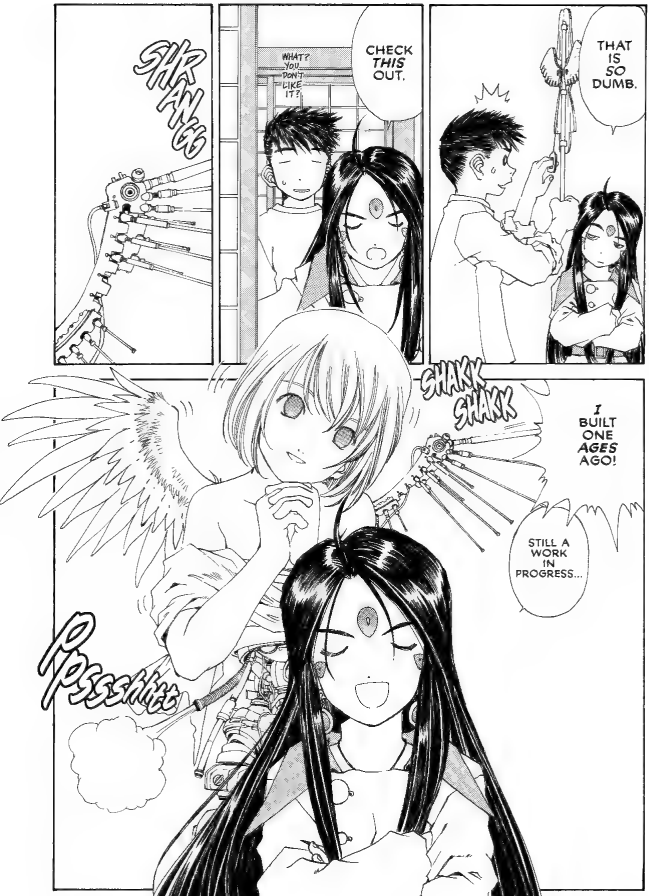


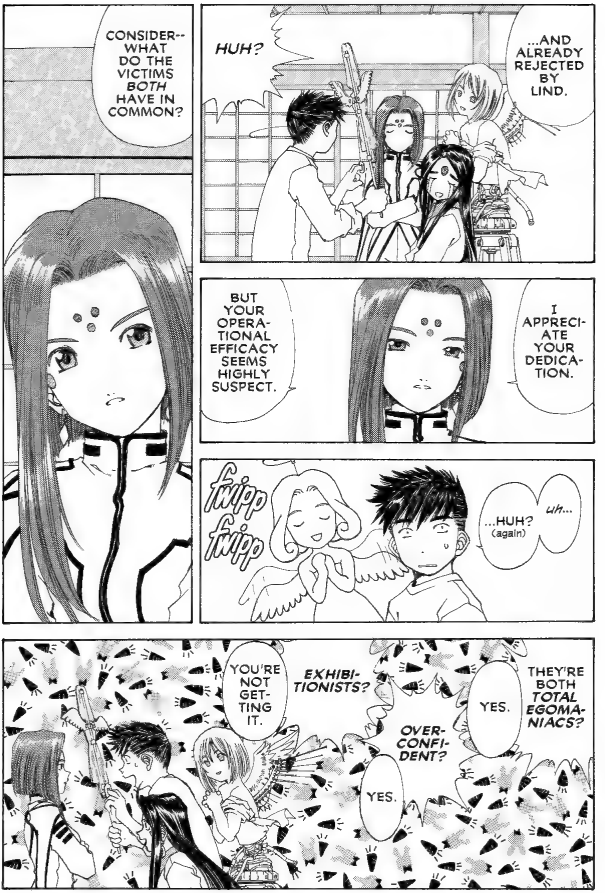

みんなの
Tea Room

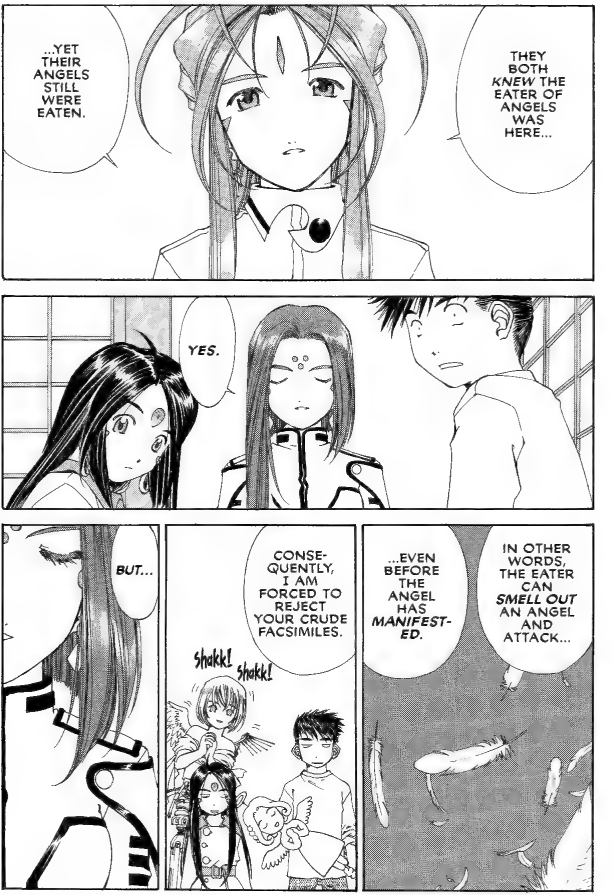
...ISN'T THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO?
LIND...
IT'S ALL RIGHT TO CHECK. BUT EXPECT NO CHANGE.
....

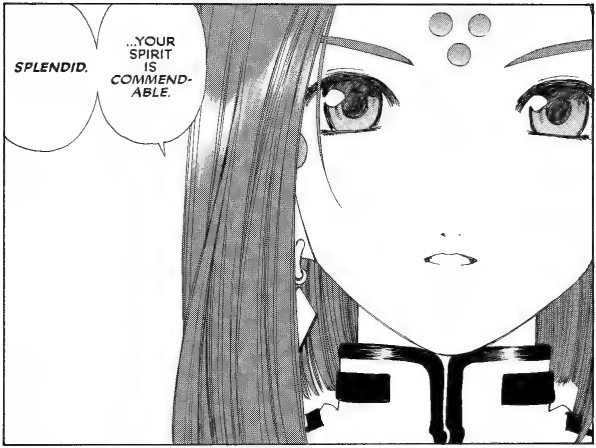
YOUR MOMENT HASN'T COME YET.
SHE'S RIGHT, SKULD.
OH...
NO. NOTHING FOR NOW.
WHEN IT DOES, YOU WILL MAKE THE DIFFERENCE.
UM!
....

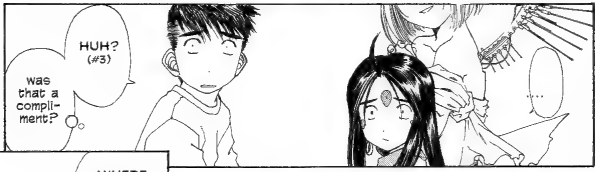

...AND DEVISED... THE PLAN.
I ASSESSED MY OWN ABILITIES...
Snip Snipp
HEH-HEH-HEH.
WHAT-CHA DOIN'?
OPERATION DUMMY ANGEL!!
shingg
kwikk kwikk
chik chak

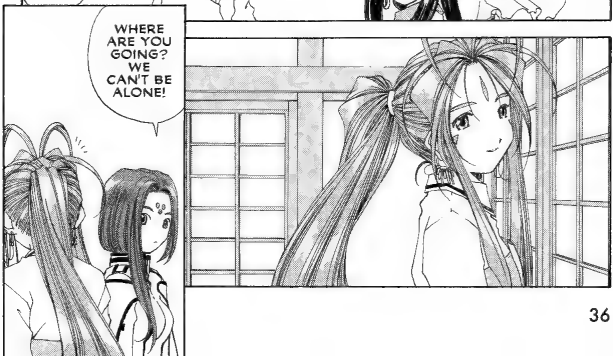

SHRANG
WHAT? YOU DON'T LIKE IT?
CHECK THIS OUT.
THAT IS SO DUMB.
SHAKK SHAKK
I BUILT ONE AGES AGO!
STILL A WORK IN PROGRESS...
PSSSHHH

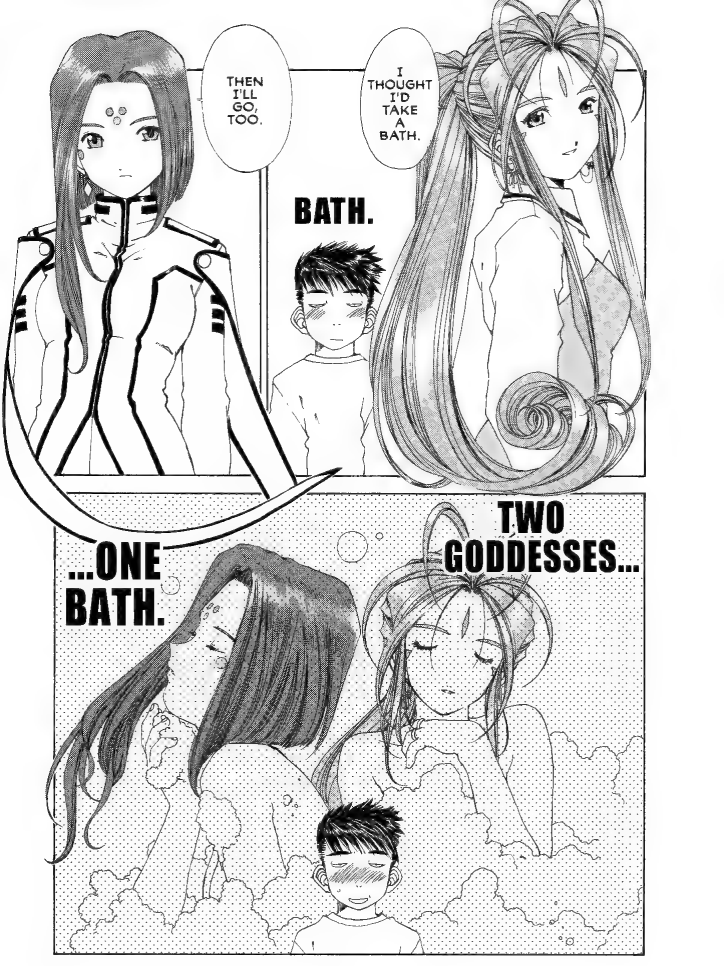

CONSIDER-- WHAT DO THE VICTIMS BOTH HAVE IN COMMON?
HUH?
...AND ALREADY REJECTED BY LIND.
BUT YOUR OPERA-TIONAL EFFICACY SEEMS HIGHLY SUSPECT.
I APPRECI-ATE YOUR DEDICA-TION.
twipp twipp
...HUH? (again)
uh...
YOU'RE NOT GET-TING IT.
EXHIBI-TIONISTS?
YES.
THEY'RE BOTH TOTAL EGOMA-NIACS?
OVER-CONFI-DENT?
YES.

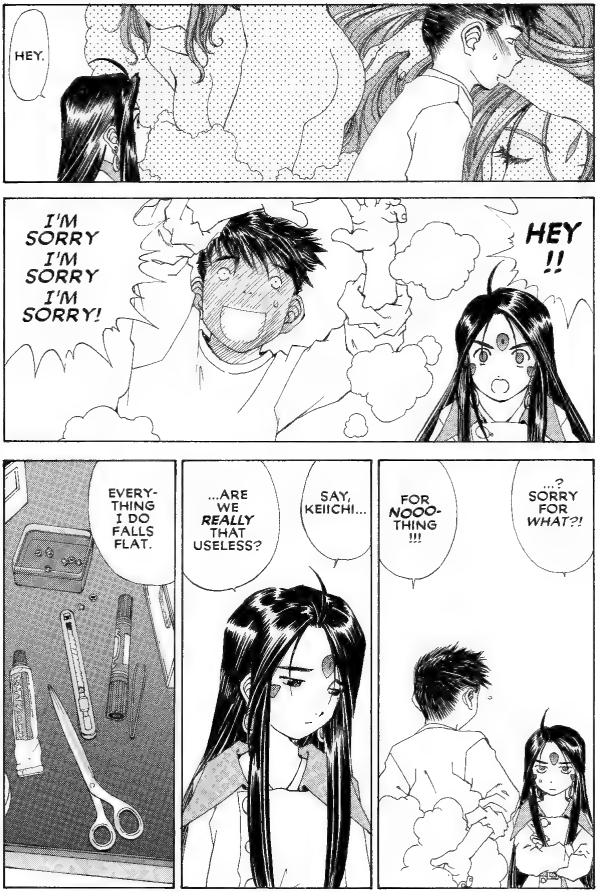

...YET THEIR ANGELS STILL WERE EATEN.
THEY BOTH *KNEW* THE EATER OF ANGELS WAS HERE...
YES.
BUT...
CONSE-QUENTLY, I AM FORCED TO REJECT YOUR CRUDE FACSIMILES.
Shakk! Shakk!
...EVEN BEFORE THE ANGEL HAS *MANIFEST-ED.*
IN OTHER WORDS, THE EATER CAN *SMELL OUT* AN ANGEL AND ATTACK...

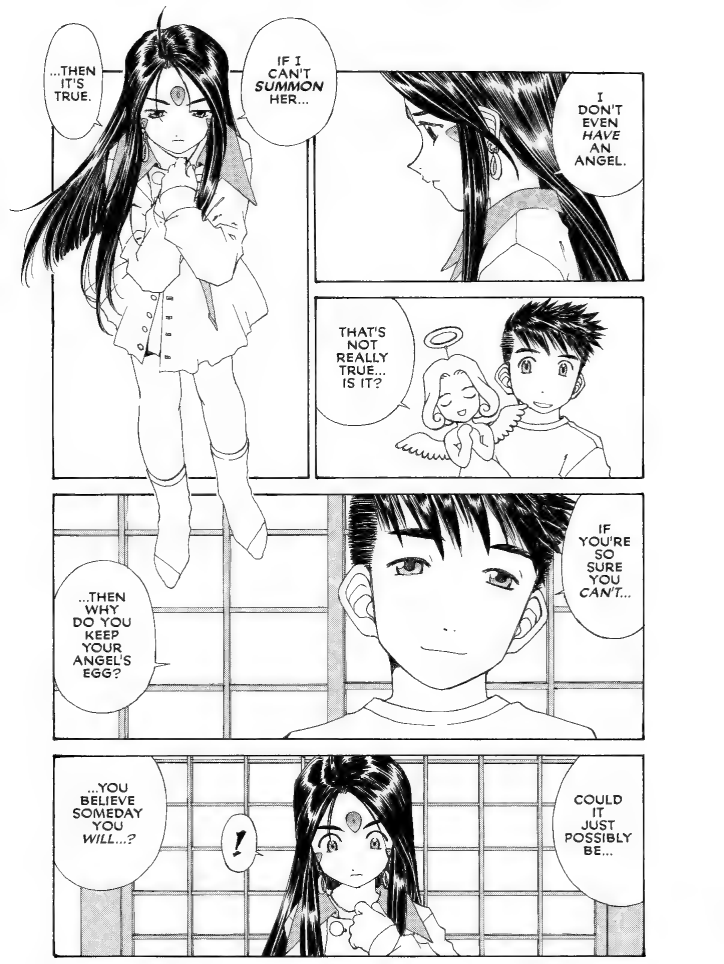

SPLENDID.
...YOUR SPIRIT IS COMMEND-ABLE.


HUH? (#3)
was that a compli-ment?
....

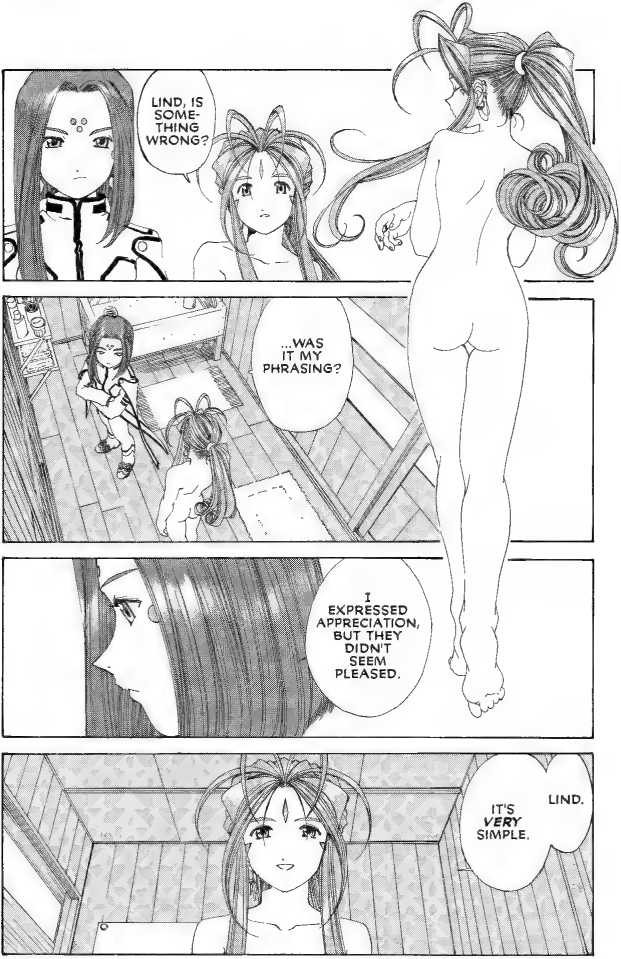

WHERE ARE YOU GOING? WE CAN'T BE ALONE!

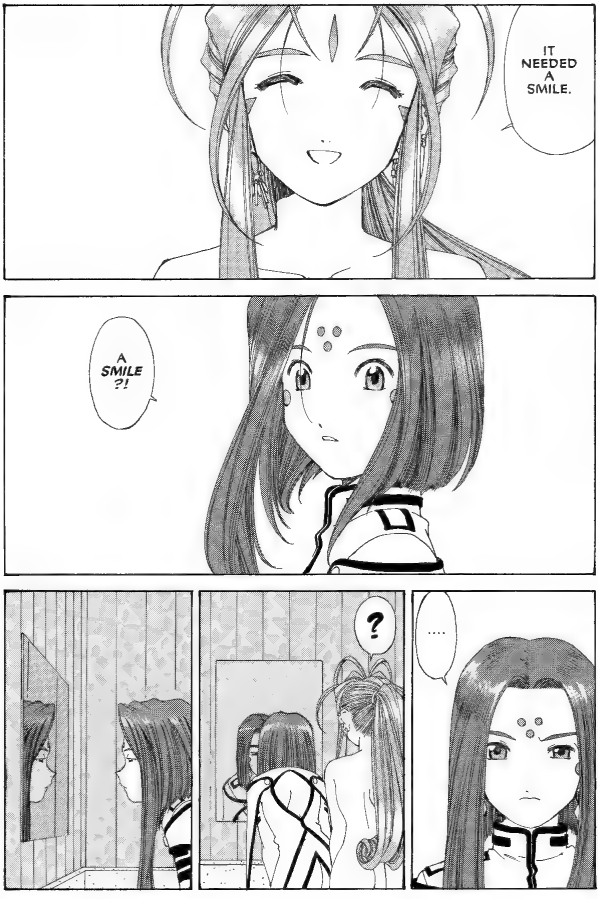

THEN I'LL GO, TOO.
I THOUGHT I'D TAKE A BATH.
BATH.
...ONE BATH.
TWO GODDESSES...

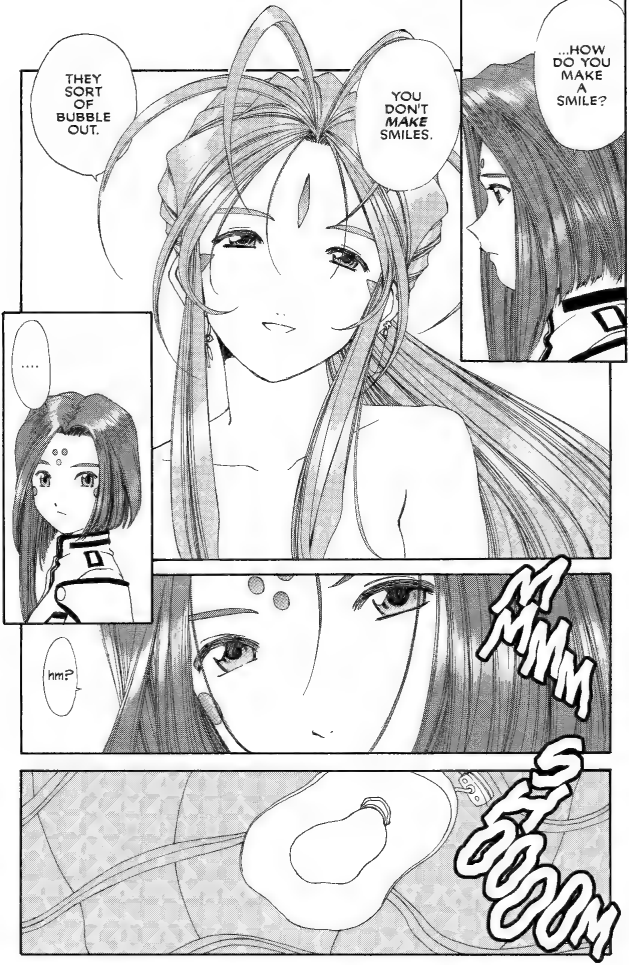

HEY.
I'M SORRY I'M SORRY I'M SORRY!
HEY !!
EVERY-THING I DO FALLS FLAT.
...ARE WE REALLY THAT USELESS?
SAY, KEIICHI...
FOR NOOO-THING !!!
...? SORRY FOR WHAT?!

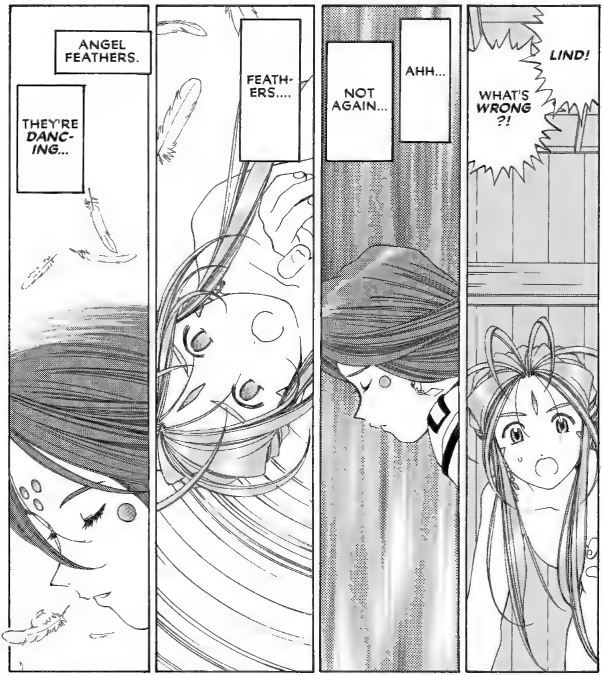

...THEN IT'S TRUE.
IF I CAN'T *SUMMON* HER...
I DON'T EVEN *HAVE* AN ANGEL.
THAT'S NOT REALLY TRUE... IS IT?
IF YOU'RE SO SURE YOU *CAN'T*...
...THEN WHY DO YOU KEEP YOUR ANGEL'S EGG?
COULD IT JUST POSSIBLY BE...
!
...YOU BELIEVE SOMEDAY YOU *WILL*...?

...IT DRIVES ME UP THE WALL.
....
YOU ARE SO DARN LITERAL...
WELL... WHATEVER.
thank you.
...DID YOU JUST HEAR SOME-THING ...?
WHAT'D YOU SAY?


LIND, IS SOME-THING WRONG?
...WAS IT MY PHRASING?
I EXPRESSED APPRECIATION, BUT THEY DIDN'T SEEM PLEASED.
LIND.
IT'S *VERY* SIMPLE.


IT NEEDED A SMILE.
A SMILE ?!
?
....


...HOW DO YOU MAKE A SMILE?
YOU DON'T *MAKE* SMILES.
THEY SORT OF BUBBLE OUT.
....
hm?
MMMM
SHOOOM


ANGEL FEATHERS.
THEY'RE DANC-ING...
FEATH-ERS....
NOT AGAIN...
AHH...
LIND!
WHAT'S WRONG?!

uh...
...FEATH-
ERS...

SO THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS
NOW I SEE.

I THOUGHT I HEARD SOME-THING...
STAY BACK!!
EH?!
NO!!
!!

!!
KNOCK
FOR-GIVE ME...
....
...BUT I CAN'T LET YOU COME NEAR.

SHRAKK
VMMMM
WHERE ?!
WHAT ?!
I KNOW WHERE THE EATER OF ANGELS IS.
WAIT! WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT'S GOING ON?!

IT'S
INSIDE
ME.
!!

OH MY GODDESS!

HILD&MARA

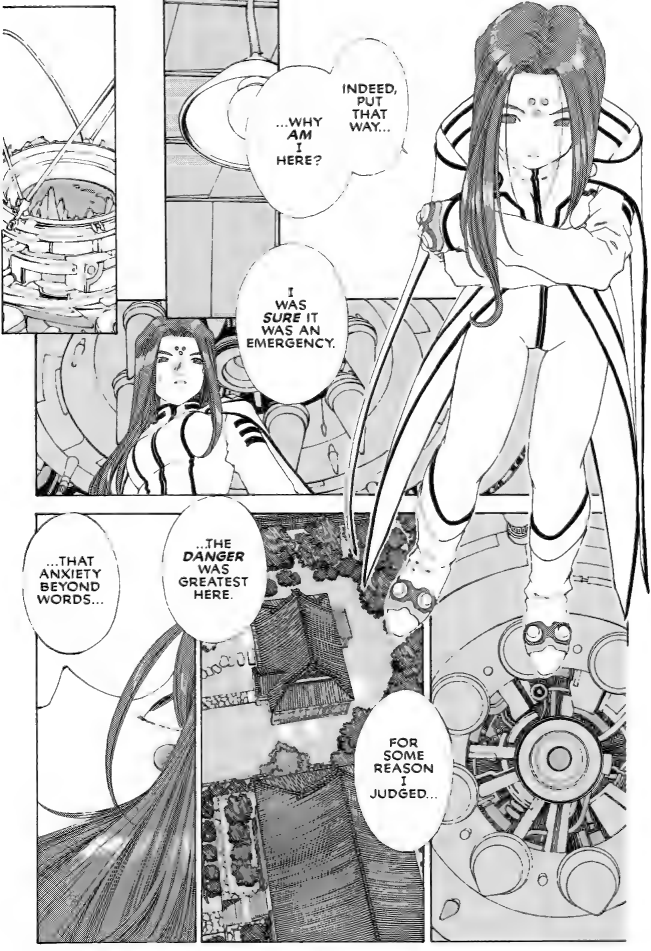
CHAPTER 158

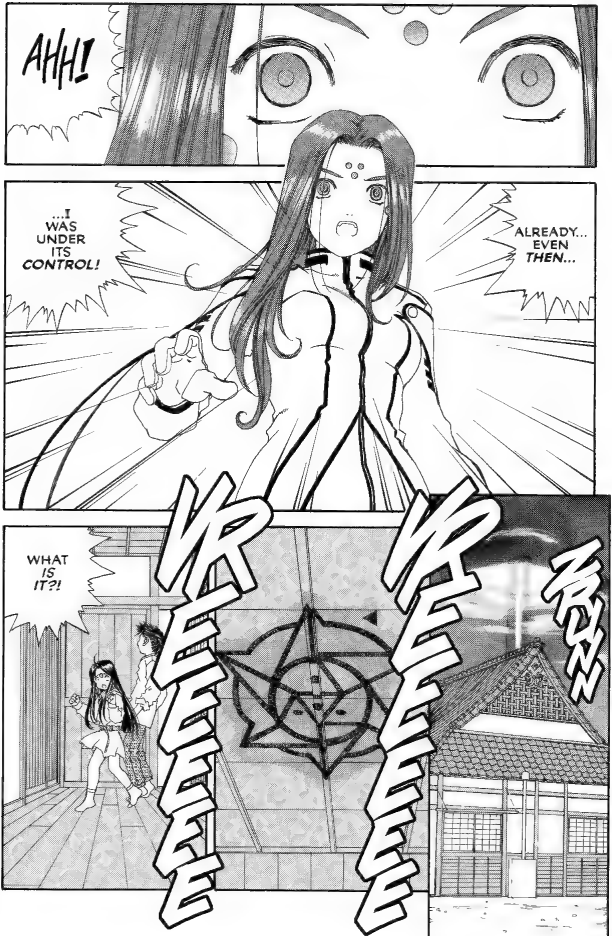
The One-Winged Angel

THAT'S CRAZY...

I MUST BE CARRYING IT... AS A PARASITE.
NO THE MOST LOGICAL EXPLANA-TION

THEN, IF YOU HADN'T COME...
JUST WAIT A MINUTE!
...NOTHING WOULD'VE HAPPENED...
...TO MY SISTERS!
SO WHY ARE YOU HERE?!?


INDEED, PUT THAT WAY...
...WHY AM I HERE?
I WAS SURE IT WAS AN EMERGENCY.
FOR SOME REASON I JUDGED...
...THE DANGER WAS GREATEST HERE.
...THAT ANXIETY BEYOND WORDS...


AHH!
...I WAS UNDER ITS CONTROL!
ALREADY... EVEN THEN...
WHAT IS IT?!
KRRRR
KREEEEEE
KREEEEEE

FWWK
KREEEEE
ZAKK
DEMONS!
SHNNG

KEPT'CHA
WAITING!

SHOKK
OOH... I DON'T LIKE IT ROUGH.

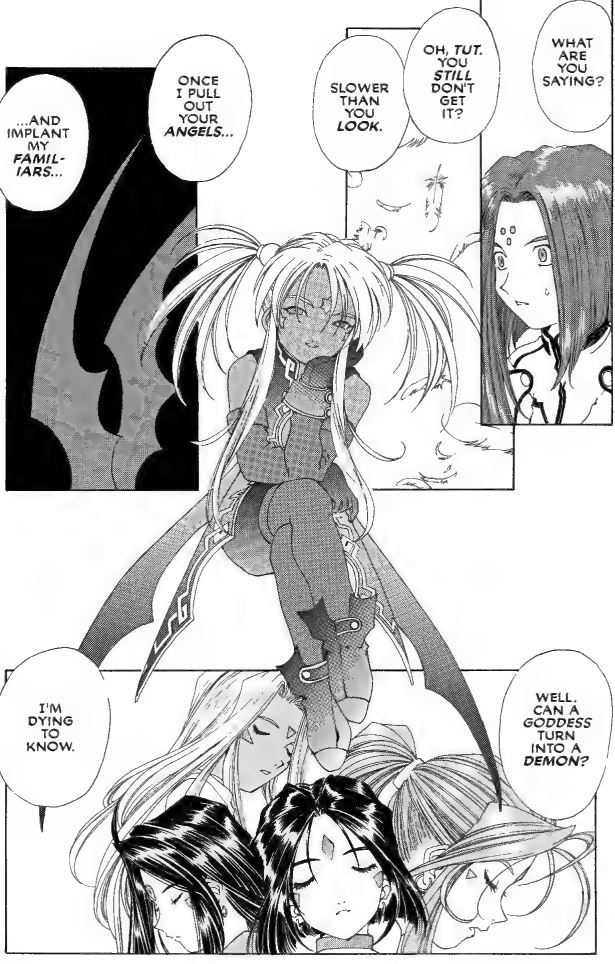
KRNG
HAH ?!
!!
FWM
FWAM

CRNK
WHAM

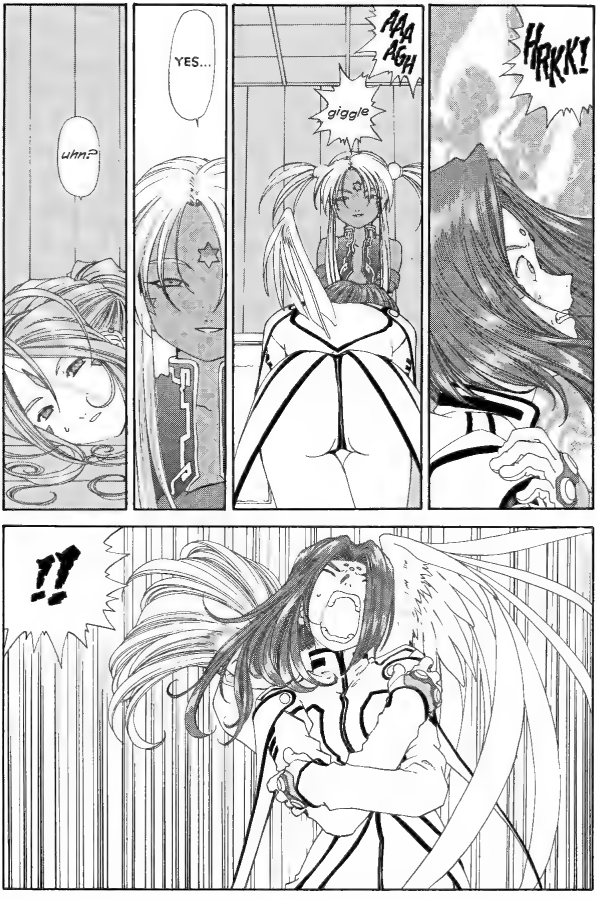
LIND !!
WHAT'S GOING ON? LIND!!
KKANG
KAANG
....
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHY ALL THE FUNNY FACES?
I KNOW YOU FIGURED IT OUT.

...ALREADY BELONG TO ME.
THAT YOU...
AND, TWO--
WHICH IS WHY YOUR ATTACK IS JUST FOR SHOW.
ONE-- THE OLD DOUBLET THING YOU KNOW SO WELL.
WHY? TWO REASONS.
THEN WHY DON'T YOU ATTACK?
SPLK
KRAK

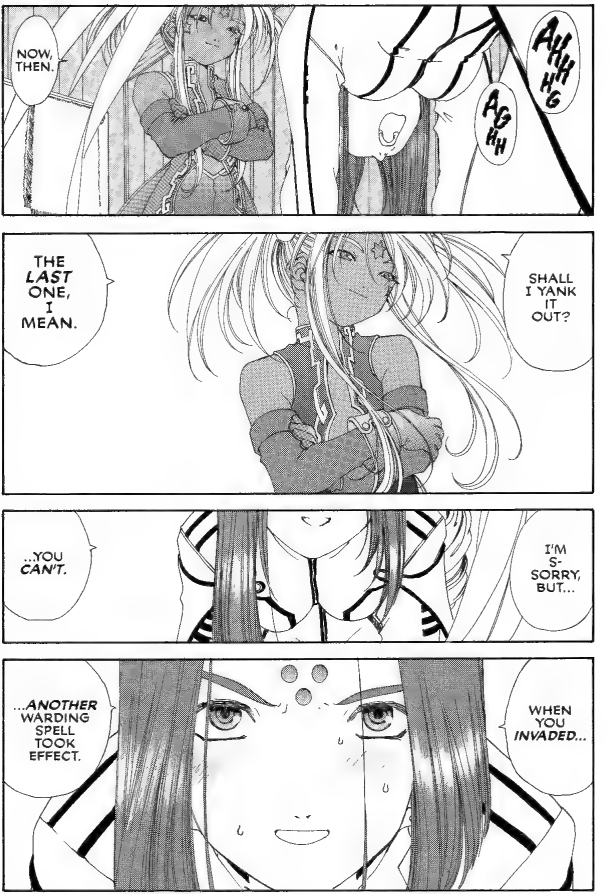
BECAUSE YOU'RE MY PRECIOUS LITTLE PUPPETS. ♥
PUPPETS?
YEAH. ♥
LITTLE URD HAS DEMON BLOOD... SHE'S ALREADY FINE.
BUT THE REST OF YOU?
THAT'S SO, SO INTERESTING.


WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
OH, *TUT.* YOU *STILL* DON'T GET IT?
SLOWER THAN YOU *LOOK.*
ONCE I PULL OUT YOUR *ANGELS...*
...AND IMPLANT MY *FAMIL-IARS...*
WELL, CAN A *GODDESS* TURN INTO A *DEMON?*
I'M DYING TO KNOW.

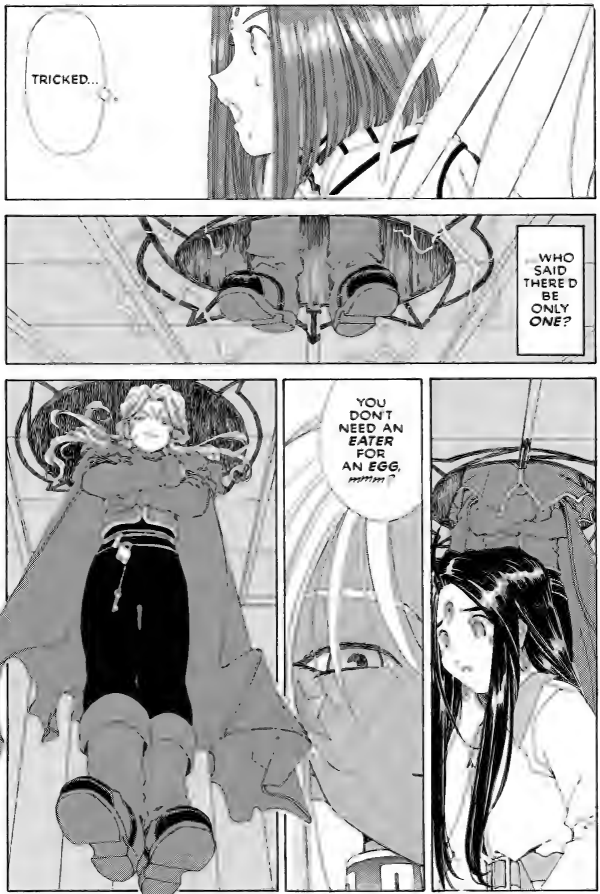
AND YOU THINK...
...I'LL LET YOU?!
COME ON OUT, MY KITTY.
chkk chkkk! COME ON OUT!
...HOW IT WORKS.
HERE. I'LL JUST SHOW YOU...
STOP THIS FARCE.


uhn?
YES...
giggle
AAAGH
HRKK!
!!

...LIND...

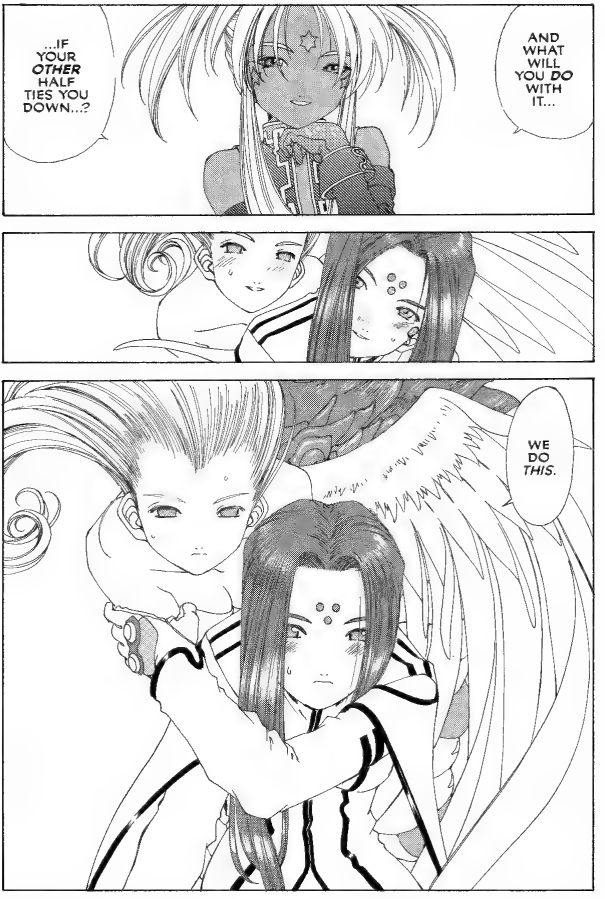

NOW, THEN.
AHHHG
AGHH
THE LAST ONE, I MEAN.
SHALL I YANK IT OUT?
..YOU CAN'T.
I'M S-SORRY, BUT...
...ANOTHER WARDING SPELL TOOK EFFECT.
WHEN YOU INVADED...

NICE OF YOU TO PLAN AHEAD FOR ME...BUT IT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT TO ACCEPT.
OH, NO.
Y-YOU WANT TO FIND OUT...?
MEANING... USE IT AND BE SORRY?
IT REFLECTS ALL DEMON ENERGY BACK.
I BROUGHT A GUEST OF MY OWN...
BECAUSE I DIDN'T TELL YOU.


TRICKED...
WHO SAID THERE'D BE ONLY ONE?
YOU DON'T NEED AN EATER FOR AN EGG, mmm?

WHATEVER MAKES YOU *WANT* THAT?
SPLIT YOU ASUNDER... AND YOU ARE *BOTH* PARALYZED.
YOU MAKE YOURSELF WEAK. YOU CAN'T FIGHT ON YOUR OWN.
YOU'RE SUCH FOOLS.
heh-heh-heh

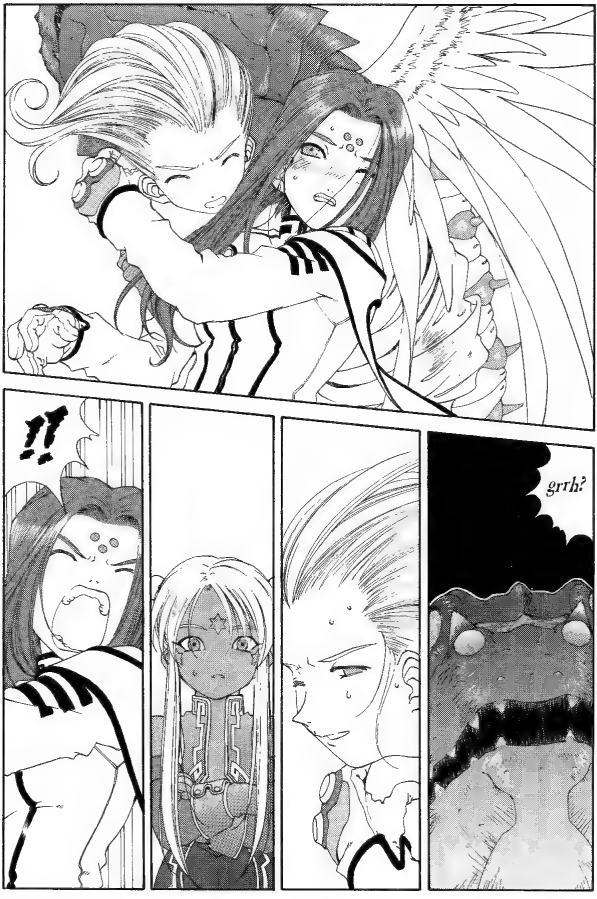
...ALL THE POWER.
AND ONE MORE THING...
...BUT ALL THE JOY.
...MEANS SHARING JOY. WE SHARE HALF THE WEAK-NESS...
BUT SHARING WEAK-NESS...
TRUE. WE CAN'T FIGHT ALONE.


...IF YOUR *OTHER* HALF TIES YOU DOWN...?
AND WHAT WILL YOU *DO* WITH IT...
WE DO *THIS*.

CHAPTER 159

Devil of a Plot

WHAT IS IT?
"THIS"?
HERE
THAP


!!
grrh?

ガバッ

WOW.
hgg
YOU RIPPED IT OUT YOURSELF.
THAT MUST HAVE REALLY HURT.
TRAINING PAYS, I SUPPOSE.

...YOUR LAST CHANCE TO SALVAGE YOUR ANGELS.
AND NOW YOU'VE LOST...
...NOT YET.
NO...
RELEASE !!
Both Your Duties I Now Relieve...
Key Guardian, Hear These Words...
Lock Warden, Braced at My Command...
ah?

BRAM
SKULD !!
MARA, HAVE YOU TAKEN CARE OF--
huh?
WHERE ARE --?!

MISTRESS I C-CAN EXPLAIN
UH... yeah

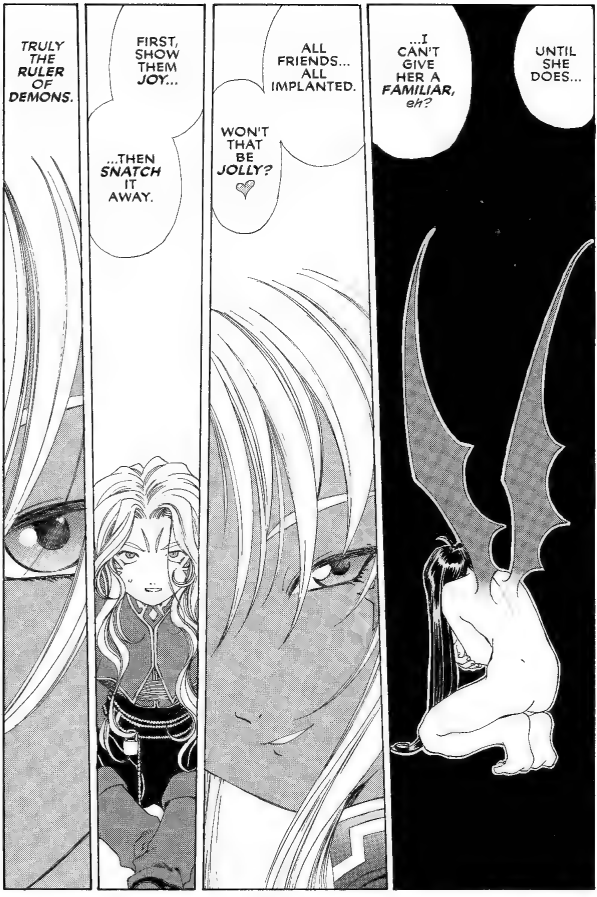
I CAN SEE IT CLEAR AS NIGHT
DON'T EVEN TELL ME
...

THE END.
CAN'T TWITCH A FINGER.
FLATTENED BY LUCKY CHARMS.
HOGTIED BY THE LITTLE ONE.
TICKLED BY THE FUNNY ONE.
THERE'S A SAYING FOR TIMES LIKE THIS...
100%!
NO, NOT THAT EITHER.
NO, NOT SAYING... WHAT'S THAT WORD? PREFIX?
UHM, MA'AM? TECHNICALLY, THAT'S NOT A SAYING.
...USELESS TWIT!

AH ?!
GRRORGK!
!!
SKRASH

THEY GOT AWAY.
A-ARE YOU OKAY WITH IT...?
...WITH *THIS?*

IT'S ALL GOING TO PLAN.
OH, PLEASE.
YOU COULDA GOT THE EGG.
HATCH AND HARVEST.
MAKE SKULD CALL HER ANGEL.
YESSS...
...CALL IT, TO CATCH THEM ALL.


UNTIL SHE DOES...
...I CAN'T GIVE HER A *FAMILIAR*, eh?
ALL FRIENDS... ALL IMPLANTED.
WON'T THAT BE *JOLLY?*
FIRST, SHOW THEM *JOY*...
...THEN *SNATCH* IT AWAY.
TRULY THE RULER OF DEMONS.

HEY, MISTRESS HILD.
....
YE-E-ES?
COULD YOU *PLEASE* UNTIE ME?
YOU'RE A GENIUS AT SPOILING THE MOOD.
...
...LIKE *SPIDER* THREAD...
...*BINDING* THEM UNABLE
...TO MOVE

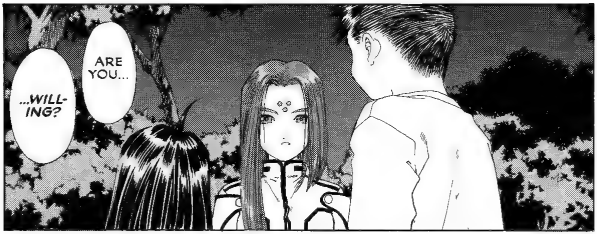
SSH!
MNGNF!
A FAMILIAR! IN BELL-DANDY ?!
DON'T ASSUME WE SHOOK THEM...
...IT COULD COST US OUR CHANCE.
OH, RIGHT... SO HIGH AND MIGHTY WARRIOR ?!
YOU RAN AWAY AND LEFT THEM!

TRY REFLECTING ON YOUR *OWN* MISTAKES, *HUH?!*
AND *IF YOU* HADN'T COME... *THIS NEVER WOULD HAVE HAPPENED!*
I HAVE MOUNTAINS OF THEM.
...BUT THAT WILL BRING US NOTHING.
YOU WANT TO SEE ME HAGGARD...

I MAY REFLECT...
BUT I DON'T *REGRET*...
AND I'M *DONE* REFLECTING.
NOW IT'S TIME TO *EXECUTE* THE *RESULTS*.
THEN...
WHAT WILL YOU *DO*?

RESCUE THEM ALL, WITH ALL MY STRENGTH.
IT'S OBVIOUS.
BEST PLAN I'VE EVER HEARD.
....

I ASSUME YOU'VE GOT AN IDEA?
OF COURSE.
READY?
WE'LL...
EHH ?!


ARE YOU...
...WILL-ING?

LET'S GO.
....
!!

OH MY GODDESS!

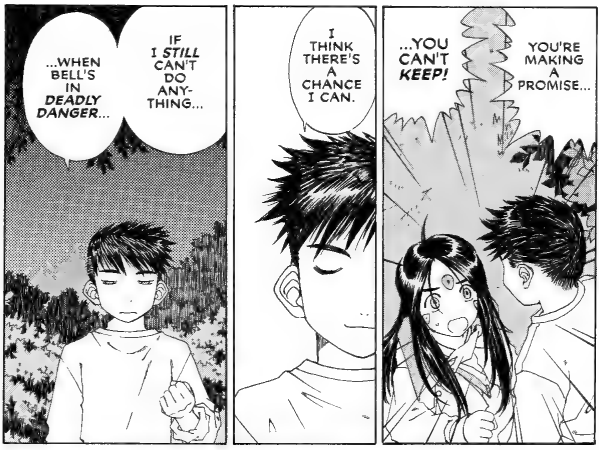
DUMMY ANGEL

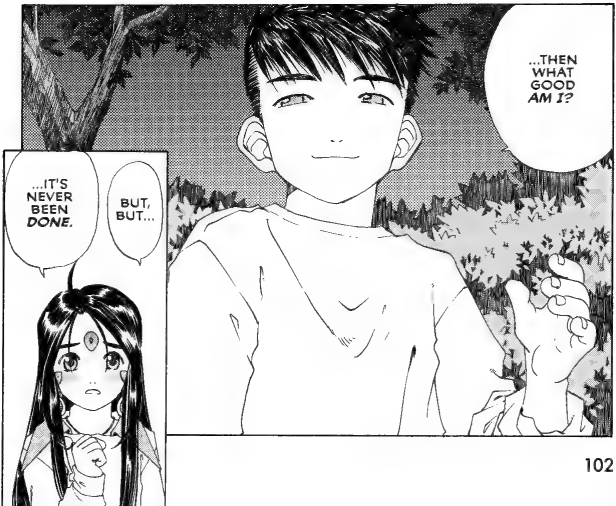
CHAPTER 160

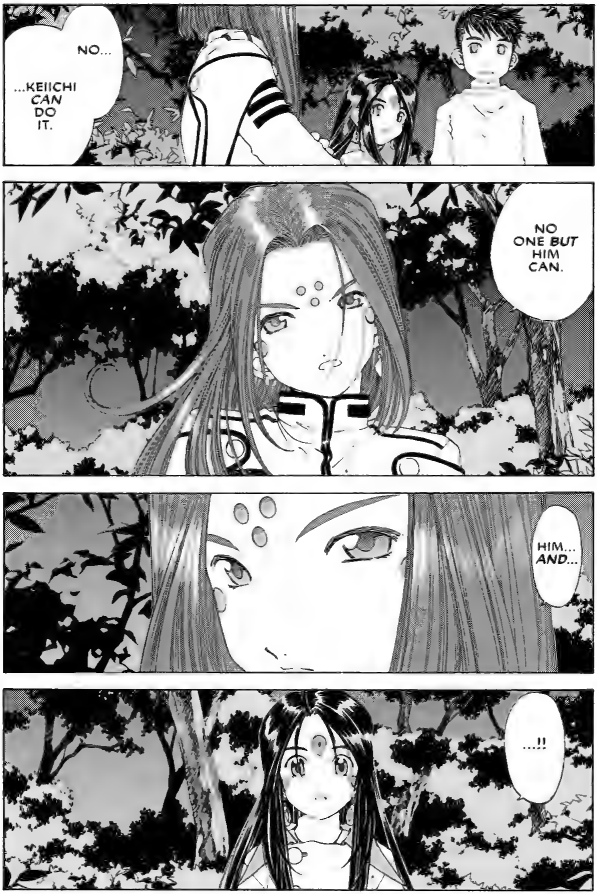
What Times Demand

YOU...
uuuuuuu
uuuuuuu
uuuuuuu
uuuuuuu

GREAT INSULT. THANKS.
UUUUU IDIOT !!
WELL, MAYBE NOT.
YOU THINK IT'S GOING TO BE THAT EASY?
MAYBE NOT, NOTHING !!
IF YOU DID, YOU WOULDN'T TRY!
YOU DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?!


...WHEN BELL'S IN DEADLY DANGER...
IF I STILL CAN'T DO ANY-THING...
I THINK THERE'S A CHANCE I CAN.
...YOU CAN'T KEEP!
YOU'RE MAKING A PROMISE...

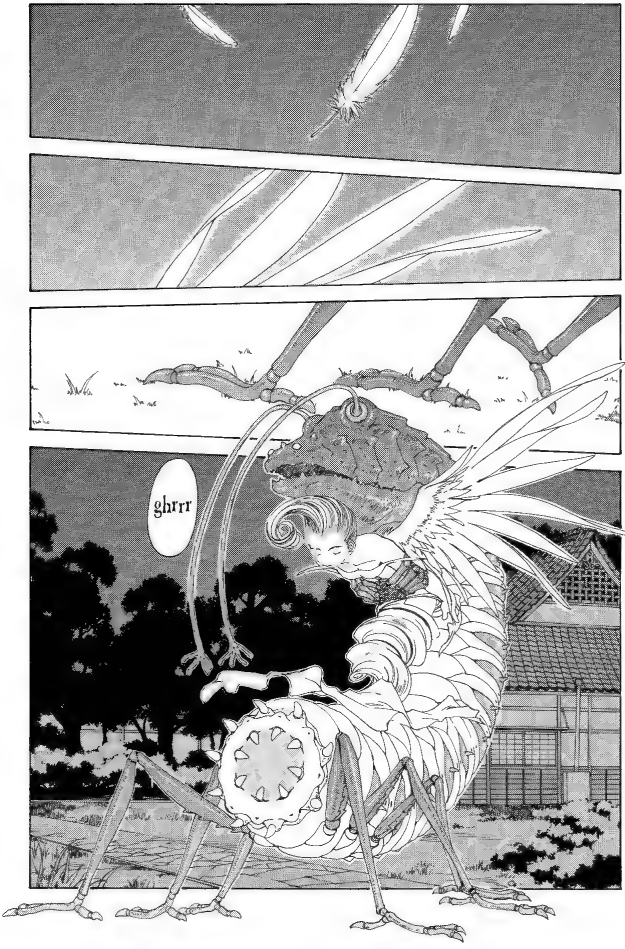

...THEN WHAT GOOD AM I?
...IT'S NEVER BEEN DONE.
BUT, BUT...

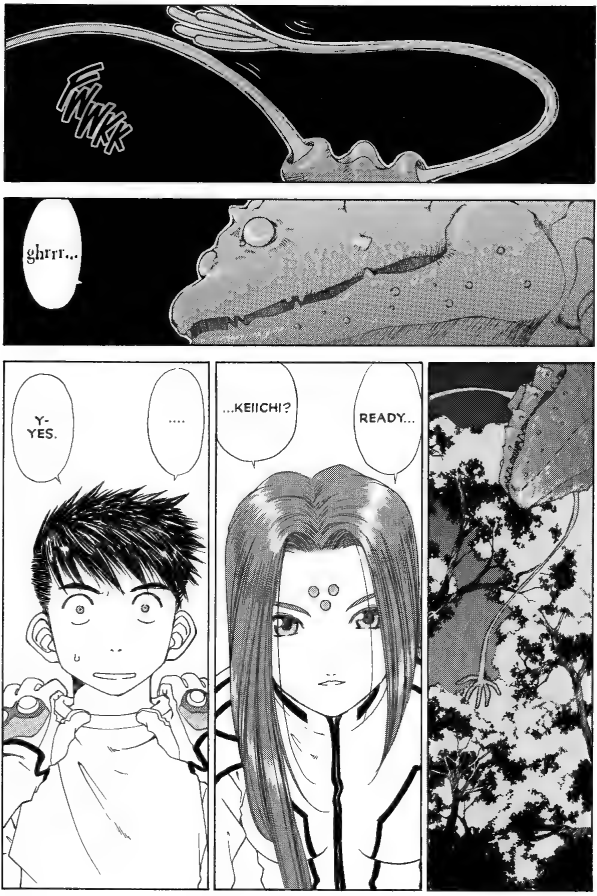

NO...
...KEIICHI CAN DO IT.
NO ONE *BUT* HIM CAN.
HIM... *AND*...
...!!

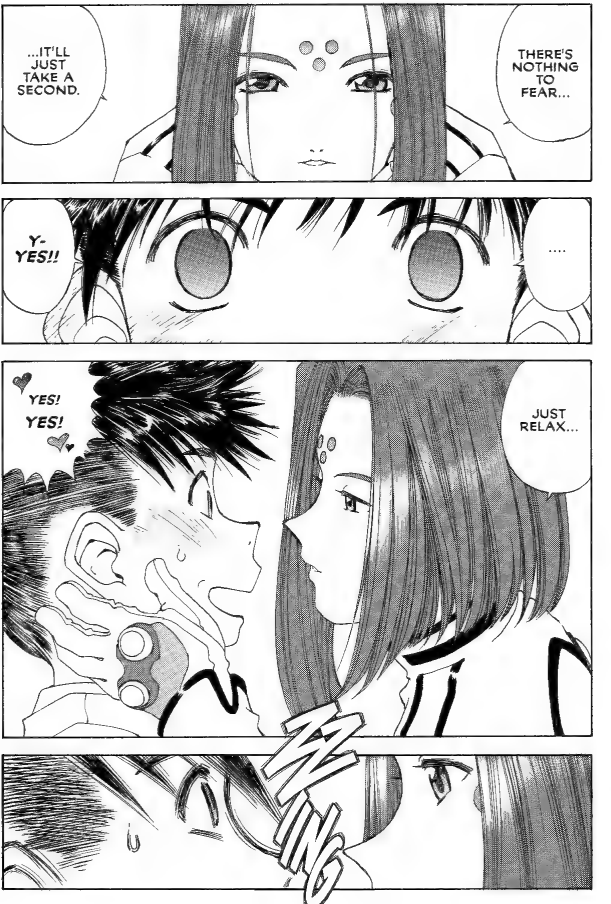
READY OR NOT HERE IT *COMES*.
B-BUT WHAT ABOUT *SKULD'S* ANGEL?
LIKE I WAS SAY-ING
TO MAKE *EVERY-THING* PERFECT ♡

ONE NONE DARE ATTACK.
...WE CREATE THE PERFECT WEAPON.
NOW!
I SEE.
...OR IS SHE JUST HAVING FUN?
OKAY! HERE WE GO!
uh...
...yeah.
MORE LIKE A BLAST.
FUN?

ZAAK
BLEEET


ghrrr


FWWK
ghrrr...
Y-
YES.
....
...KEIICHI?
READY...


...IT'LL JUST TAKE A SECOND.
THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR...
Y-YES!!
....
YES!
YES!
JUST RELAX...
ZING

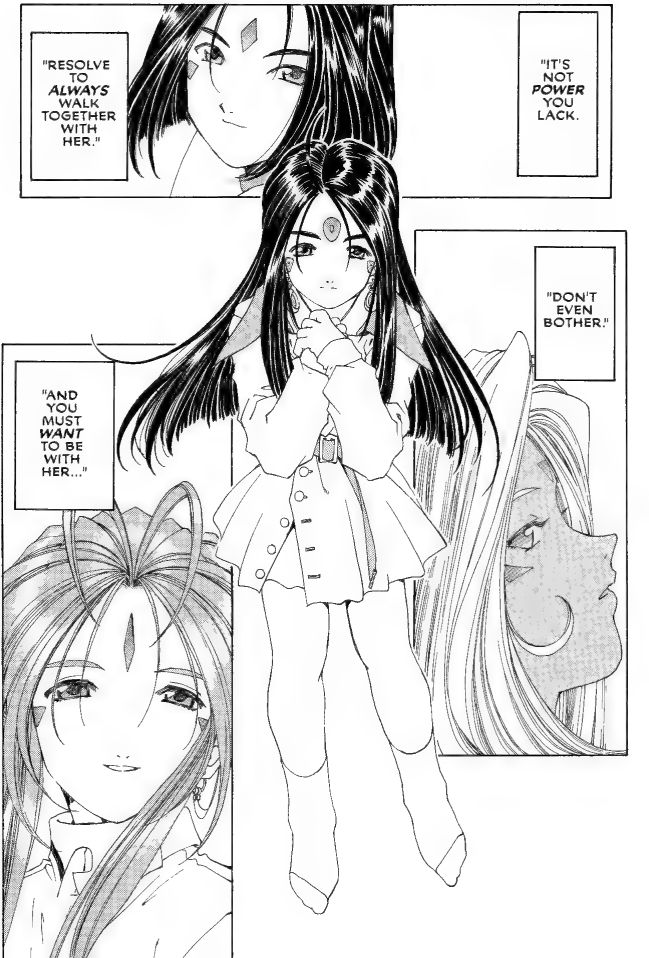
GRRRrrrrpp ...!
...SINKING INTO YOUR BODY.
YESSS... SSSURE WISSS...
THERE MAY BE A SENSE OF POWER...
STEADY... STEADY... HOLD IT.

I THINK... IT'S PROB-ABLY...
...WORK-ING NOW.
....
...PROB-ABLY?
AH?!

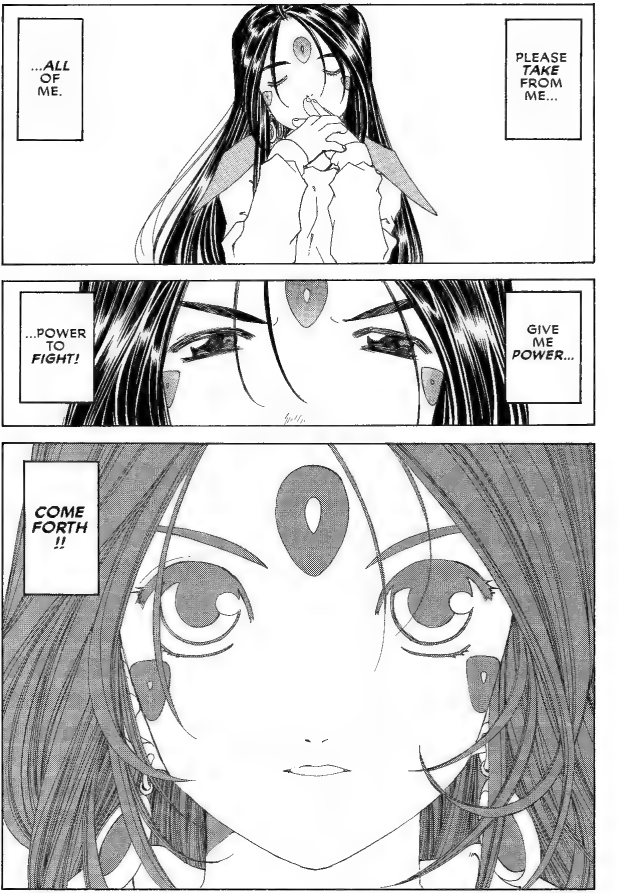
tee-hee-hee
YOU'RE IT!

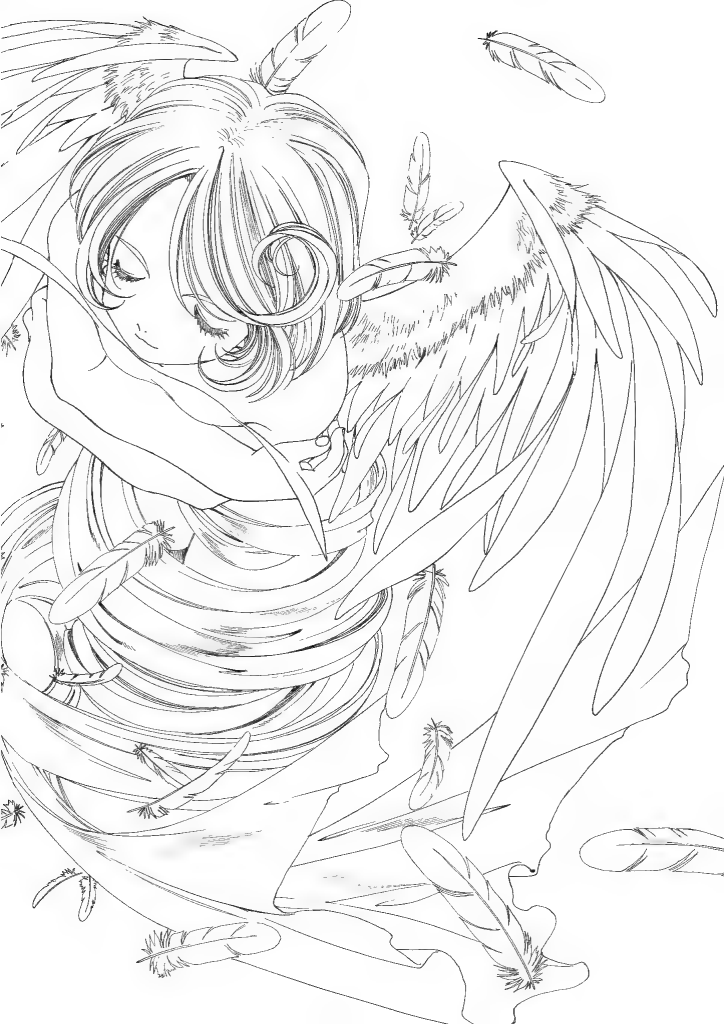
PARDON ME?
YOU CALL THAT ESCAPING?
SKULD...
...CAN'T MOVE ANY-MORE...
krrrk...
REQUEST YOU... SUMMON... YOUR ANGEL...

...BELL-DANDY...
URD... PEORTH...
...CALL HER.
NOW IS YOUR TIME...
LIND!
THWD
...THIS IS SOME-THING... ONLY YOU CAN DO.
...WONT YOU SAVE THEM ...?

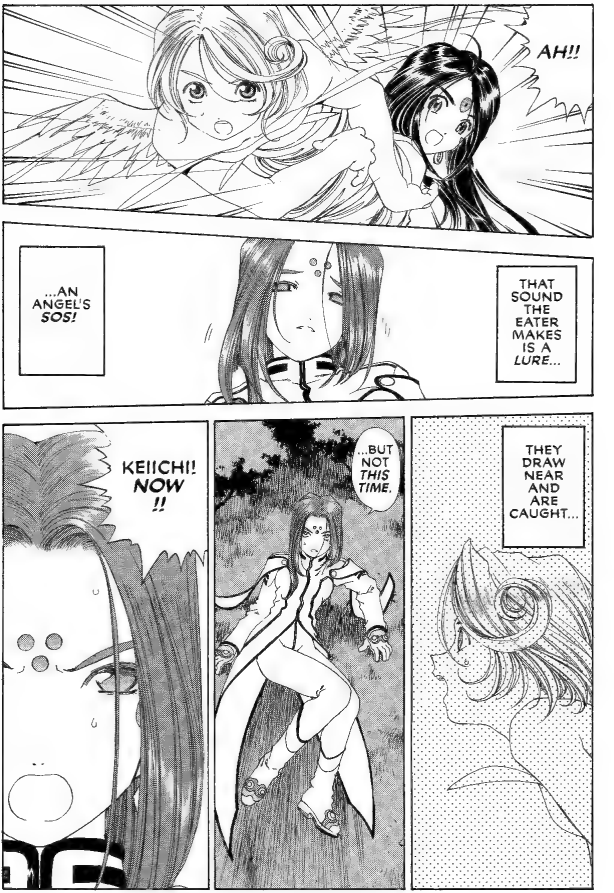

"RESOLVE TO *ALWAYS* WALK TOGETHER WITH HER."
"IT'S NOT *POWER* YOU LACK.
"DON'T EVEN BOTHER."
"AND YOU MUST *WANT* TO BE WITH HER..."

"...NOT OUT OF ENVY OF OTHERS.
"FROM YOUR *HEART*."
I ***DO*** WANT TO BE WITH YOU.
I ***NEED*** YOU...
...I'LL ***NEVER*** LET YOU GO AGAIN.


PLEASE TAKE FROM ME...
...ALL OF ME.
GIVE ME POWER...
...POWER TO FIGHT!
COME FORTH !!



I SO WANTED TO SEE YOU!
NOW !!
SHREEEE


AH!!
THAT SOUND THE EATER MAKES IS A *LURE*...
...AN ANGEL'S *SOS!*
THEY DRAW NEAR AND ARE CAUGHT...
...BUT NOT *THIS TIME.*
KEIICHI! *NOW* !!

WHAT?
!!
COME FORTH
...

CHAPTER 161

Binary Wings

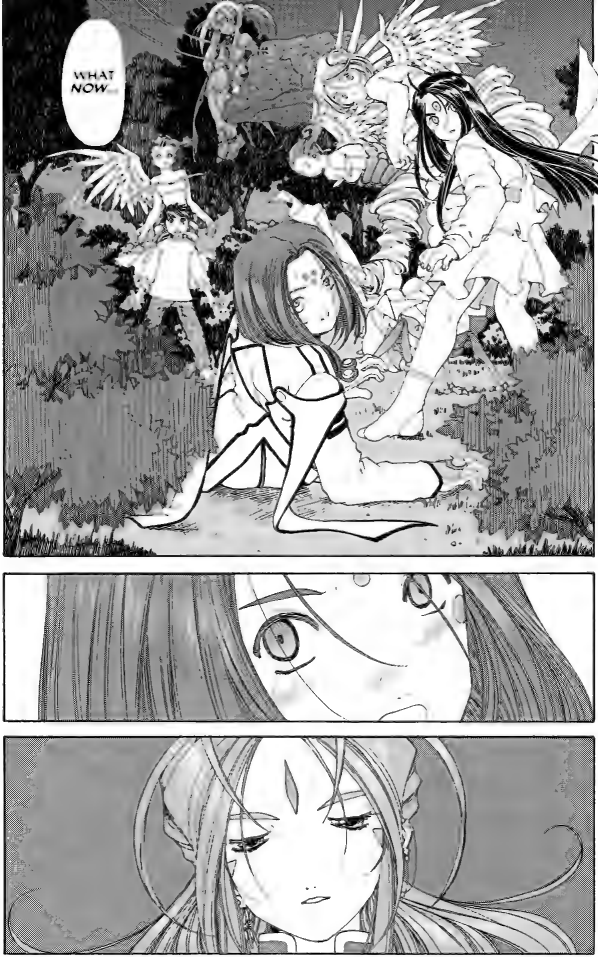
COME FORTH...
WHAT?!
KEIICHI!!

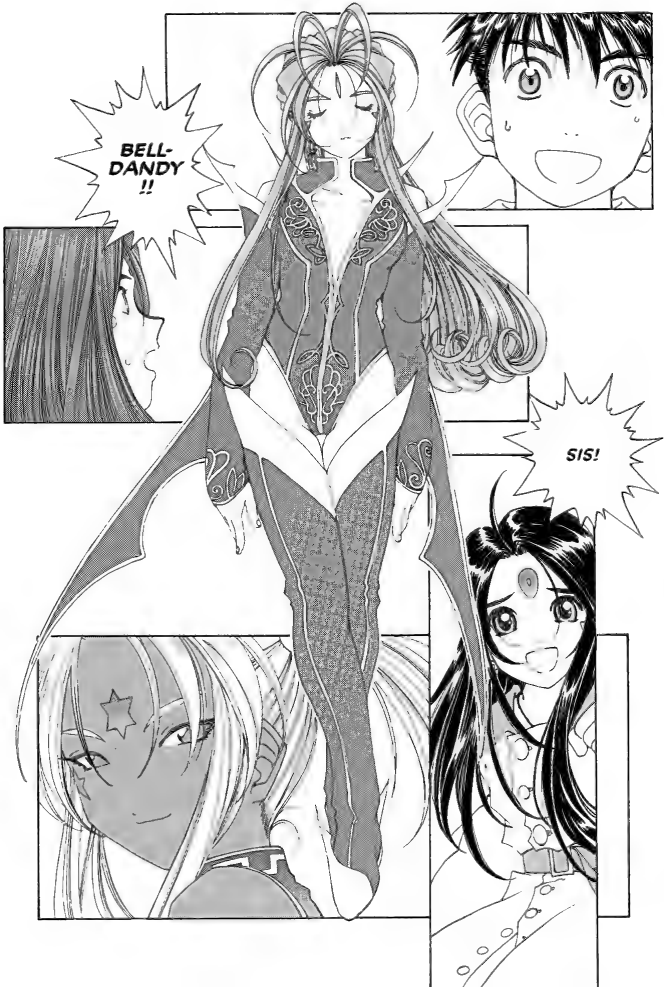
...COOL MINT!
EHH ?!
NO WAY!
ANGELS... FED BY A GODDESS' LOVE.
YES... HE CAN.
...SURELY YOU...
KEIICHI... LOVED BY SO MANY GODDESS-ES...

...CAN SUPPORT AN ANGEL...

rrggg
sss
WELL, YOU SURE GOT ME.
ONE-WINGED LIND...
...WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT YOU HAD TWO.
uggrrr
sss
EVEN IN HEAVEN, FEW KNOW MY OTHER NAME...
JUST AS I THOUGHT. IT CAN ONLY ATTACK ONE AT A TIME...

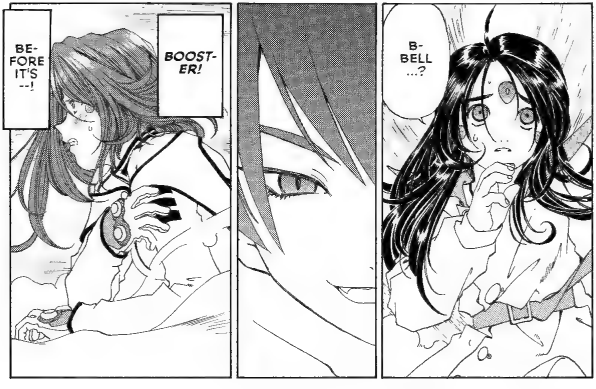
GO, KEIICHI!
...LIND, OF THE BINARY ANGEL.
?
COOL AND...!


WHAT
NOW


BELL-
DANDY
!!
SIS!

BELL-CHAN...
FWND
huh?
SKULD! WAIT!

TNGG


BE-
FORE
IT'S
--!
BOOST-
ER!
B-
BELL
...?

AHHGG
SRAK
CHAK
BOOST !!
SPARK

KAWNG
SKRAK
THWMP
BLAHHH

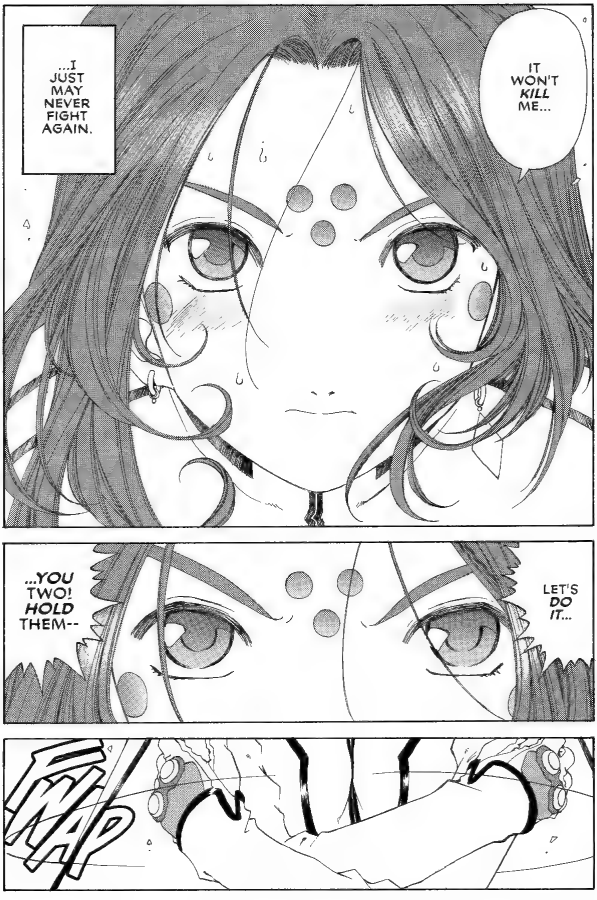
NOBLE SCARLET!
COOL MINT!
WITH ALL THE POWER IN ME...
BELL-DANDY! I SWEAR!
...I WILL RESCUE YOU !!!

HE HAD *THIS* WITHIN HIM ...?!
I *WON'T* GIVE UP!
THIS GIRL DOESN'T NEED OTHERS' HELP...
...*ALL* THE TIME!
SKULD...
...I SEE IT NOW...

I WANT YOU TWO TO *FALL BACK!*
WHAT *FOR?!*
IS *THAT* HOW MUCH YOU TRUST US?
I JUDGE THAT YOU WILL BE SAFE ON YOUR OWN.
...SALVAGE THE *ANGELS*... FROM THE *EATER!*

OH, MY. I *WONDER.*
WITH *BELL-DANDY'S* VAST POWER TO DRAW ON...
...MY *FAMILIAR'S* NOW ONE TOUGH COOKIE.
IT'S TAKING ALL *THREE* OF YOU...
...JUST TO CONTAIN HER *DEMON FIELD.*
KEEP WONDER-ING.

BUT WHAT'LL WE *DO*? HILD'S *RIGHT!*
MY *SHOULDER* STRIPES...
...ARE *BOOSTERS*... FOR WHEN I'M BEATEN DOWN.
ONE IS GONE... *FIVE* REMAIN.
IF I USE THEM ALL AT *ONCE*...
...I CAN HOLD IT OFF UNTIL YOU SALVAGE THE ANGELS.
BUT... WHAT WILL THAT *DO* TO YOU...?
WORRY ABOUT *YOURSELF*.
BUT...


IT WON'T KILL ME...
...I JUST MAY NEVER FIGHT AGAIN.
LET'S DO IT...
...YOU TWO! HOLD THEM--
FWAP

DON'T.
DON'T, LIND...
...SHE'S NOT A THREAT ANYMORE.
THE DEMON FIELD...
...IT'S GONE...?
pitta
pitta

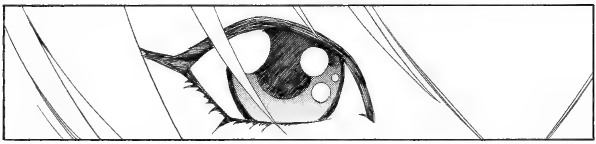
CHAPTER 162

Goddess of the Ax

SHE'S NOT A THREAT.

...WHAT ?!
WHAT IS...

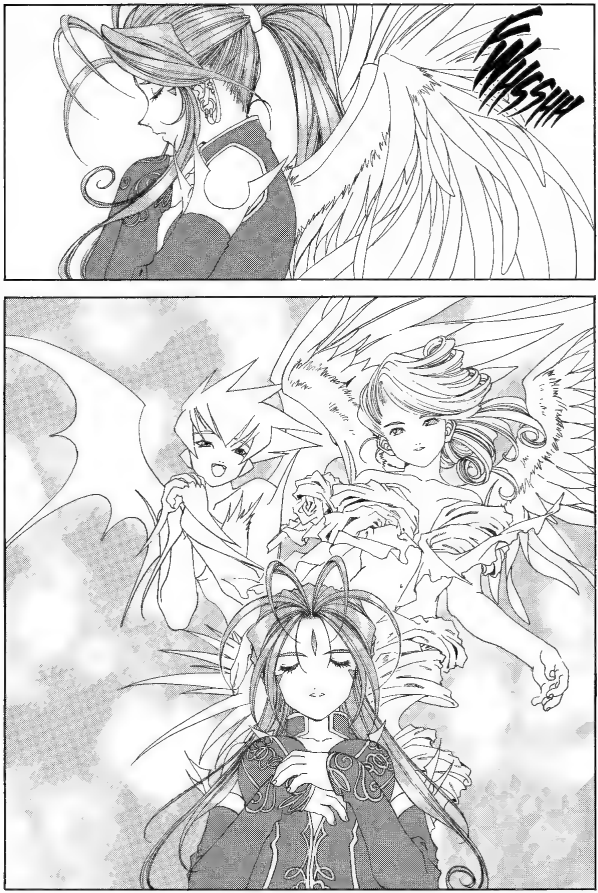
...I WON-DERED...
...IF A GODDESS COULD TURN DEMONIC...

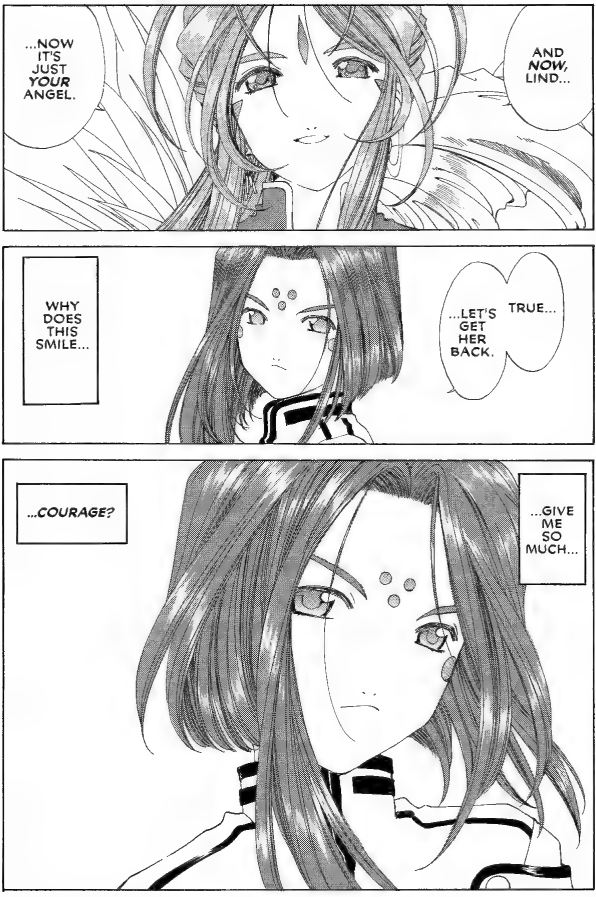


...BUT IT HAPPENED THE OTHER WAY ROUND...
...MY *FAMILIAR* TURNED TO THE SIDE... OF A *GODDESS*.
VERY *NICE*.
WELL DONE.
YOU HAVE POWER THAT MAKES EVEN *ME*...
...SHIVER.

AND I *WANT* IT!!
COOL AND... *ICE BLADE!*
FULL OF SUR-PRISES.
TO THINK YOU COULD USE *THAT*, TOO.

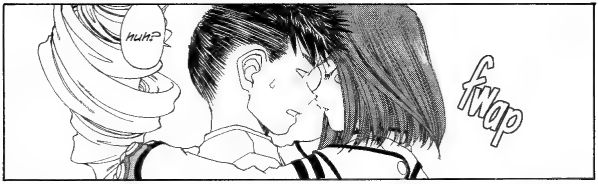
BUT... YOU LOSE.
THE SILLY THING CAN'T TOUCH ME.
NOPE... IT WORKED JUST FINE.
!!
!!

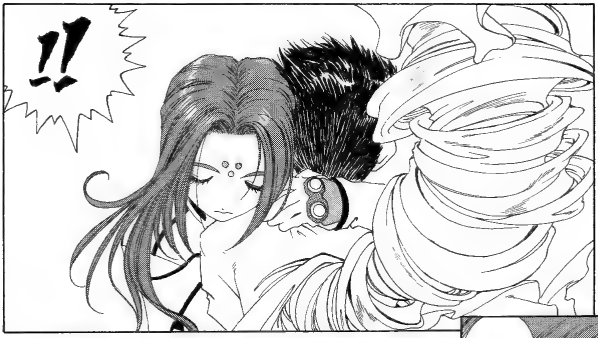

FWISSHH


...NOW IT'S JUST *YOUR* ANGEL.
AND *NOW*, LIND...
WHY DOES THIS SMILE...
...LET'S GET HER BACK.
TRUE...
...COURAGE?
...GIVE ME SO MUCH...

VHNN
MY LITTLE KITTY LIKES TO *THRASH ABOUT.*
VHNN
NOT AS EASY AS YOU *THINK.*
FWAM
ZNNN
SWAKK

HAA...
KEIICHI!
REQUEST HER RETURN!
...AGAIN ?!


HUH?
FWAP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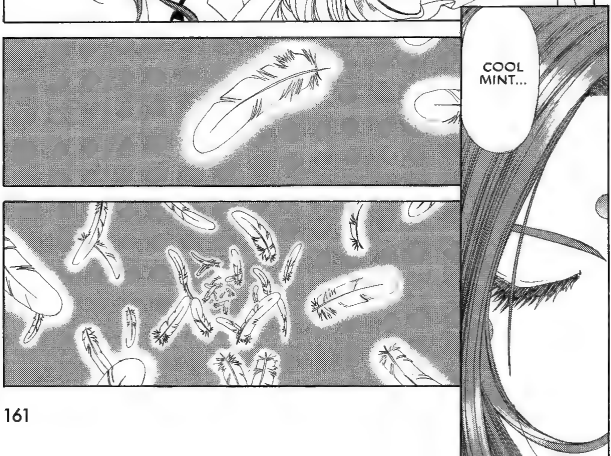
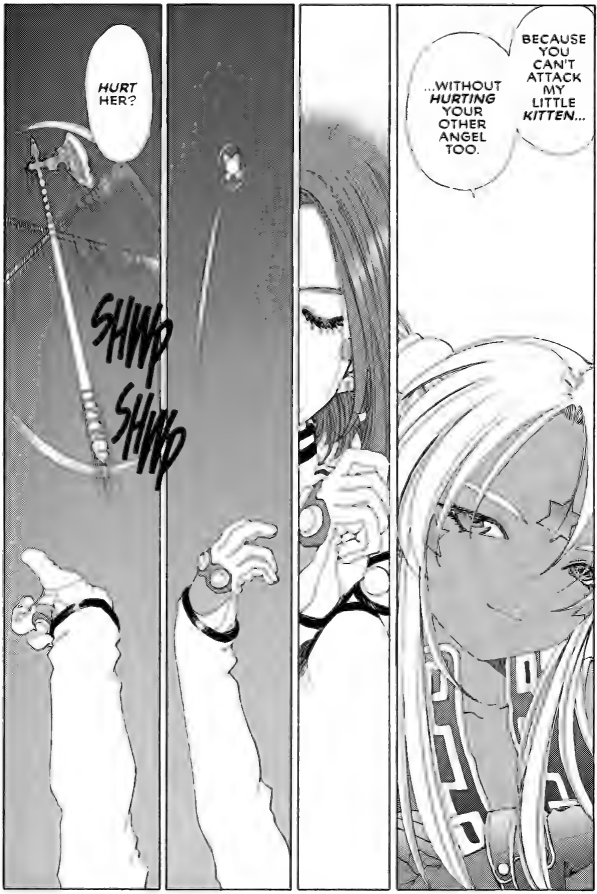

COOL MINT...

I GUESS HOME IS BEST.
AND YET...

...WHAT'S THIS FEELING OF LOSS...
KICK
OOF?
eh?
THANK YOU.
IT'S PROOF YOU DID GIVE HER YOUR ALL.

I CAN FEEL FROM COOL MINT...
...THAT YOU TRUSTED COMPLETELY.
SO THAT'S IT.
LIND...
...ALL OF THEM...
...WERE FIGHTING WITH TEN TIMES THE LOSS I FEEL.
LIND...

...BLOW THEM AWAY!
...WON'T MAKE A *WHIT* OF DIFFERENCE.
GETTING YOUR *ANGEL* BACK...


HURT HER?
SHWP
SHWP
BECAUSE YOU CAN'T ATTACK MY LITTLE KITTEN...
...WITHOUT HURTING YOUR OTHER ANGEL TOO.

I WON'T EVEN TOUCH HER.
BY MY AX I SWEAR!
THAMM

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Perhaps it's because this volume has an emphasis on combat and action rather than mahjong and toll roads, but there's only one note from the translator this time around—namely, her observation that although Belldandy, Urd, and Skuld are of course *named* for the Norns, as far as we all can tell, this is the first time (after more than 24 volumes) in the series Fujishima has ever actually *used* the term Norn. The editor made a quick Spotlight search through the old script archives, and could find no trace of it either; and considering that original adapter Toren Smith is cognizant of the Norse myths and their role as a motif in *Oh My Goddess!* (see his notes on naming in pp. 181-2 of Vol. 2), it's not the sort of thing likely to be removed in a rewrite.

If we don't have as much to say this time, why not go to what you've got to say? In Vol. 3 we were happy to print a number of real-life photos of the bikes of *Oh My Goddess!*, taken by correspondent Albert Sheean. Here's another letter from him:

Sir,

I discovered Keiichi and Belldandy when I'd taken my twin girls to look in the manga section at our local book emporium. The title *Oh My Goddess!* caught my eye and I began reading . . . Now I am waiting for *OMG!* Vol. 24 to arrive, and the DVDs for the next TV season to appear. While I don't particularly care if the book is flopped or not, I do wish that the books could be published in a larger format—that way more of the exquisite details in Mr. Fujishima's artwork can be appreciated. He really is quite an illustrator, with superb architectural pen and ink renderings, and faithful details in his depictions of the motor vehicles appearing in *OMG!*.

I'm an old motor head from way back, and I recognized K1's Beemer as being a "Rennsport" model with upgraded front suspension and brakes. Keima's bike is a Matchless G50, a barely civilized racer tamed for the street. I wonder what the Japanese police would say about the bellow coming from the open megaphone on his bike? Being involved in vintage motorcycle racing, I can assure you that a G50 Matchless on full is a noisy, unruly beast.

I've been enjoying the new format reissue of the earlier *OMG!* books. The color pages are fun, and going back to my older editions, I can see that the pages colorized were probably colored originally and were published in B&W anyway. Belldandy has an eye for color in her earlier "earth-bound goddess" days.

Sincerely,
Albert Sheean
Granada Hills, CA

Yes, that's right—the color pages you now see in the new format, re-issued early volumes of *Oh My Goddess!* were ones that originally ran in color in Japan, but were reproduced in black & white in the old (i.e., flopped) Dark Horse *OMG!* books. However, some of these color pages (for example, pp. 131-134 in Vol. 1) weren't reprinted in color in the *Japanese* graphic novels, either—they appeared in color only the first time the story ran in *Oh My Goddess!*'s Japanese home, *Afternoon* magazine.

Color versions of these pages have only recently become available through Kodansha's limited "Complete" editions of the early stories—it is these "remastered" files that are being used for the new format early volumes, whereas later volumes use the files of the standard Kodansha "Afternoon KC" editions. Note that only the early volumes of *OMG!* had any color pages, but it's always possible Mr. Fujishima may do some again as a special occasion. If so, we'll certainly endeavor to print them that way.

Since I'm not a rider myself, I again appreciate this commentary on the bikes of *Oh My Goddess!*, which are as essential to the manga's spirit as the Goddesses themselves are. The Goddesses, of course, can fly, but doesn't it sometimes seem as if *OMG!*'s human characters express that same sense of freedom and joy when they ride their vehicles? Belldandy appeared to recognize this in Vol. 24, and we may perhaps see this sentiment earlier, too, when she was mentoring Sora and (as her little sister had to learn to ride a human bike), Skuld, too.

Mr. Sheean also said that he hoped his bike photos are now in Kosuke Fujishima's hands, to let him know at least one of his readers recognizes the bikes he draws. As mentioned above, these photos appear in Vol. 3, and it's definitely in Mr. Fujishima's hands, as he of course receives copies of the English (and other foreign) editions. Once again, thank you!

The format in which I receive *Oh My Goddess!* is one in which I can indeed see the exquisite details—gigantic, 1200 dpi scans of the original art (sometimes the film) that are literally ten times the size of this graphic novel. It comes in especially handy when trying to decipher the teeny-tiny in-jokes that were common in the early volumes of *OMG!* (you'll recall an illustration of this in Vol. 1's "Letters to the Enchantress").

Of course, for eleven years (1994-2005), Dark Horse *did* publish *Oh My Goddess!* in a larger format—during that whole period, the book was not only translated "flopped," but published as a monthly comic book and then collected into 6" x 9" graphic novels—both the comic book and those graphic novels, of course, being larger than the 5" x 7.5" unflopped version you currently hold in your hands (unless, like certain X-Men, you have prehensile feet and/or telekinesis).

With the new format, the story is coming out faster in English (although I know that sometimes seems hard to believe), but at the loss, among other things, of the larger page size. As someone who began by editing manga in comic book format, I have definite sympathy for your viewpoint. Of course, I can remember when the "smaller" size was the 6" x 9" format—many companies, including Dark Horse, originally did their manga GNs at full comic-book size (although this was never the case with *Oh My Goddess!*, you may find some old *Outlanders* and *3x3 Eyes* graphic novels that size, as well as Shirow Masamune's works, back when he was known as Masamune Shirow ^_^).

Although the current *Oh My Goddess!* graphic novels are the same size as is the regular series in Japan (actually, the Dark Horse versions are just slightly larger), it's also true that pretty much all professional

manga isn't drawn to be read at that size, but at magazine size—that is, the size of the magazine in which they appear, in *OMG!*'s case, the monthly, *Afternoon*. This means, roughly comic book size—so the abandonment of the monthly manga comic book has meant *Oh My Goddess!*'s more "authentic" format meant the abandonment in English of both its Japanese publication size and frequency. Irony, as has been observed, can be pretty ironic sometimes.

Now we'll draw you a little further into the secret world of how Dark Horse brings *Oh My Goddess!* to you. ***Behold!***

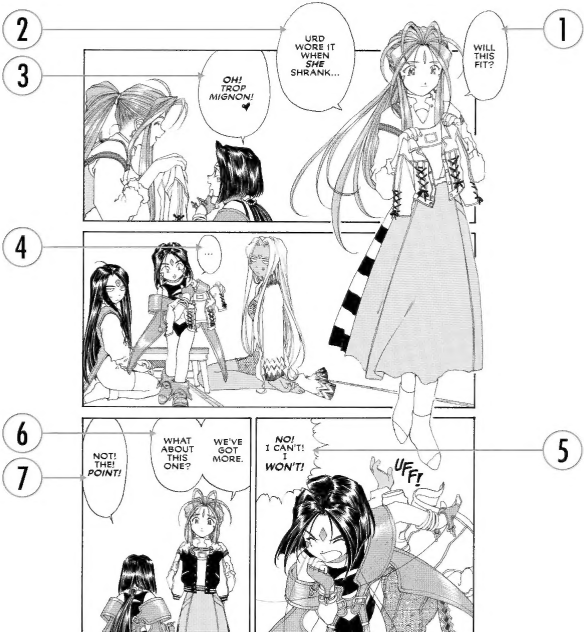
Dark Horse's Director of Asian Licensing, Michael Gombos, discovered this, the most holy shrine of the sister Goddesses, fifteen floors above Tokyo in Kodansha's towering worldwide headquarters.

Have I mentioned before that Mr. Gombos is a really cool guy, and that I'm lucky to know him and work with him? If you study Japanese as hard as he has, perhaps you too will one day get this close to divinity.

The cruel thing is, I've been to Kodansha HQ too, but I don't remember no Goddess Trio being on hand to greet me.

STOP! This is the back of the book!

This manga collection is translated into English, but arranged in right-to-left reading format to maintain the artwork's visual orientation as originally drawn and published in Japan. If you've never read comics this way before, take a look at the diagram below to give yourself an idea of how to go about it. Basically, you'll be starting in the upper right-hand corner, and will read each word balloon and panel moving right-to-left. It may take a little getting used to, but you should get the hang of it very quickly. Have fun! If this is the millionth manga you've read this way, never mind. ^_^



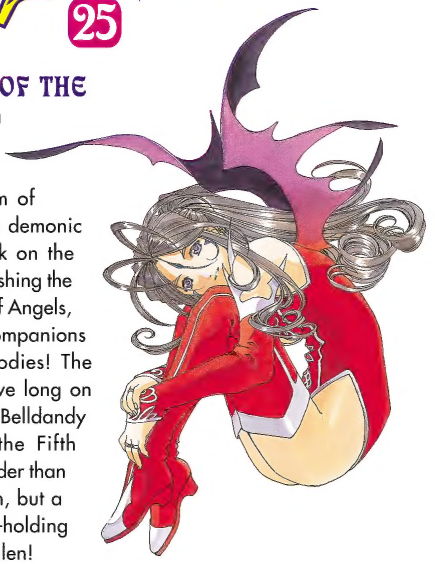
MANGA/HUMOR

Oh My Goddess!

ああっ女神さまっ 25

THE APPEARANCE OF THE

Fifth Goddess heralds a darker turn in the story—as we are reminded that behind the adorable form of chibi-Hild lies a fearsome demonic intent. Her surprise attack on the Goddesses begins by unleashing the beast *Tenshikui*, the Eater of Angels, which strips the angelic companions from Urd and Peorth's bodies! The stricken pair cannot survive long on Earth in this state . . . and Belldandy is the next target. But the Fifth Goddess is of a different order than her comrades. Not a Norn, but a grim Valkyrie she stands—holding a long ax to defend the fallen!



Dark Horse continues *Oh My Goddess!*, now in the much-requested, inexpensive right-to-left format!

DARK HORSE 20 YEARS
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